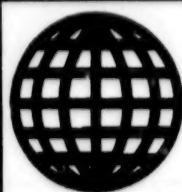


JPRS-TEN-95-001  
23 January 1995



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# ***JPRS Report***

# **Environmental Issues**

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# Environmental Issues

JPRS-TEN-95-001

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## **Greenpeace To Protest Nuclear Waste Shipment Via Caribbean**

*FL2012191794 Bridgetown CANA in English  
1522 GMT 20 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris, Dec. 20, CANA—The world's environmental watchdog, Greenpeace, said Tuesday it was sending its flagship carrier, the "Rainbow Warrior", to the Caribbean and Latin America ahead of a shipment of nuclear waste expected to pass through the region in 1995. The "Rainbow Warrior" was due to leave from Seville, Spain, Tuesday and will take three weeks to reach the Caribbean. It will make its first stop in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, and will remain in the Caribbean for a month and half.

Greenpeace said the aim of the deployment is to alert the public to the dangers of "clandestine nuclear transports" between France, Britain and Japan which transit the region despite political opposition. "People put at risk in the Caribbean and Latin America deserve to know about these clandestine transports," said Demon Moglen of Greenpeace in a press statement. "If France and Japan won't tell them, we will," he added.

The first in a series of nuclear waste shipments through the Caribbean, which is expected to leave France in 1995, will involve one cask of 28 of the nuclear waste glass blocks, Greenpeace reported. It said the nuclear waste is so "intensely radioactive" that a person standing within one meter of a single unshielded block would receive a lethal dose of radiation in less than one minute. "In all, over 3,000 cylindrical blocks of glassified plutonium waste will be transported from France and Britain to Japan by the year 2010," Greenpeace said.

While the final arrangements for the nuclear waste transports are being kept secret by Japanese, French and British Authorities, Greenpeace said, "it is believed that the most likely route for the dangerous transports will be through the Caribbean and Panama Canal".

"While the notorious Japanese plutonium shipment onboard the "Akatsuki Maru" was subsequently routed away from the region, it appears that the Caribbean/Panama is now being secretly considered," added Greenpeace.

In 1992, the heads of government of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) passed a resolution condemning the transport of plutonium and other nuclear waste through the Caribbean.

## REGIONAL AFFAIRS

**Roundup of Environmental Reports Through  
14 December**

AB2112113394

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a roundup of recent environmental reports monitored from media in FBIS Abidjan Bureau and EAU coverage areas from 25 November - 14 December. Source information follows in parentheses after each item.

**Benin**

On 24 November, the environment minister held a meeting with the people of Seme-Podji to discuss government orders banning the collection of sand along the coast to prevent erosion. The minister also informed them of the government's intention to regulate the quarry industry to protect land in the area. (Cotonou Office de Radiodiffusion-Television du Benin Radio in French 0615 GMT 25 Nov 94)

**Cote d'Ivoire**

The Coordinating Committee of the National Action Plan on Environmental Issues today presented the first white paper on the country's environmental issues. "It is the most important study so far conducted on environmental issues in the country." The study took two years to complete. The environment minister and prime minister attended the presentation ceremony.

The environment minister pointed out that the white paper identified and analyzed the causes and effects of environmental problems. The major environmental problems can be attributed to agriculture and exploitation of natural resources, which lead to rapid loss of land, soil degeneration, and biodiversity problems. Moreover, the industry, energy, transport, and tourism sectors contribute to air, water, and noise pollution, as well as the thinning of the ozone layer, industrial hazards, and climatic changes.

He concluded that there was a need to improve the national system on environmental control and rid the administrative sector of duplication of efforts. (Abidjan Radio Cote d'Ivoire Chaine Nationale-Une Network in French 1900 GMT 28 Nov 94)

A newly created non-governmental organization called Association North Nature, ANN, has decided to wage war against desert encroachment in northern Cote d'Ivoire. Its objective is to materialize the spirit that marked the Rio summit, that is preserving our environment. Actually, it wants to change the mentality of firewood users and all those who, through their behaviors, contribute to the destruction of vegetation in particular and our environment in general, mainly in the country's northern part. At the inauguration ceremony, which was chaired by the minister of tourism and environment, ANN officials pledged to popularize the use of butane gas and strive to bring down prices of gas

cylinders. (Abidjan La Chaine Une Television Network in French 2000 GMT 14 Dec 94)

**Gabon**

Gabonese soldiers and government officials are the prime culprits in a major poaching racket threatening some of the West African country's wildlife, environmental activists charged here.

The Libreville representative of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Robert Kasisi, told a symposium that "administrative and military authorities" are largely behind the poaching of wild animals for their meat, sometimes with the collaboration of "politicians". Environment Minister Martin-Fidele Magnara said the fight against the poachers was extremely hard because of the "involvement of influential people" in an activity he described as very "lucrative".

Apart from game whose hunting is restricted, many Gabonese also have a taste for the "bush meat" of protected species such as the water chevrotain (a rare kind of antelope), porcupines, scaly anteaters, elephants and more occasionally gorillas. Such meat arrives daily without hindrance in Libreville markets.

"The Gabonese are a forest and savannah people who traditionally feed themselves partly by hunting," Magnara said. But as national parks chief warden Henri Guizard explained, during the 1980's "we moved from subsistence hunting to commercial poaching", with the demand for bush meat rapidly growing in Libreville and Gabon's second city, Port-Gentil, in the oil boom years.

Highly organised poaching networks then emerged, using refrigerated lorries to transport the meat.

One member of an environmental organisation, who asked not to be named, told AFP that he had on several occasions discovered members of the security forces poaching in the game reserves. Their activities are made easy by the lack of resources available to water management and forestry officials, who last year carried out just seven raids on Libreville markets.

One official told the symposium he was in principle responsible for looking after some 42,000 hectares (some 104,000 acres) of territory single-handed, without a vehicle.

Guizard said that after several years of wholesale slaughter, some species such as the giant anteater and the manatee, or seacow, were threatened with extinction in the "near future".

But he stressed that Gabon, with a little over one million inhabitants living in a country of 267,677 square kilometres (107,071 square miles), remained a haven for wildlife with some 150 mammalian species. It has the largest populations in Africa of large primates, including about 30,000 gorillas and 60,000 chimpanzees. (Paris AFP in English 1347 GMT 25 Nov 94)

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## Nigeria

A new law has been promulgated to ensure environmental protection. It imposes a fine of 500,000 naira on any industry which pollutes the environment through what it calls an act of negligence. The director general of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency said that "any establishment that persisted in the act would pay a fine of 1,000 naira daily for the period of the pollution, while its chief executive would face a two-year jail term." (Lagos Voice of Nigeria in English 1010 GMT 24 Nov 94)

The head of state, General Sani Abacha, has expressed concern over the way the nation's forest resources are being depleted. The concern was contained in a message to the commissioning of the first phase of a pulp and paper project in a local government in Ogun State. The head of state further stated that the Federal Government was concerned about the reckless and illegal felling of trees across the country. He said it was irrational to exploit the nation's forest resources in a manner that hampered their continuous availability as raw materials for local industries. The head of state also noted that the reckless felling of trees had adversely affected the process of forest regeneration. (Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 0600 GMT 9 Dec 94)

A team of experts from the World Bank has begun a fact finding mission on the extent of degradation in the coastal areas of the country. The experts will particularly look into the remote causes and effects of degradation in the Niger River basin. The team was already received on behalf of the Delta State administrator by the coordinator of the State Environment Agency who announced that the agency had been fully equipped to combat degradation in coastal areas of the state. He also urged the World Bank to assist the state government in its efforts to find a lasting solution to the problems of coastal areas. For his part, the leader of the team disclosed that their mission to the country was to assist the government in solving degradation and deforestation of the coastal areas. He added that an action plan will be worked out with the communities involved on ways of tackling the problem. (Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 1500 GMT 12 Dec 94)

## MOZAMBIQUE

### UN Troops Accused of Smuggling Gems, Protected Animals

*MB2112074694 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0500 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Blue Helmets deployed in northern Mozambique were involved in the smuggling of precious stones and animal species protected by Mozambican law. The MOZAMBIQUE INFORMATION AGENCY reports the UN Operation in Mozambique members involved in smuggling came from Asia, especially Pakistan.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Botha Says Government Needs To Consider Use of Unleaded Gas

*MB2912172894 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1717 GMT 29 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pretoria Dec 29 SAPA—The financing and introduction of unleaded petrol in South Africa next year will need to be considered by the present government, Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha said on Thursday. The decision to introduce unleaded petrol was taken by the previous government in 1991, according to a statement issued by the minister's office in Pretoria.

The statement said a study conducted by the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa had shown that 65 per cent of South African vehicles could run on unleaded petrol without any modification to the cars. A further 15 per cent would require a minor modification which would cost about R50 [rands], while the remaining 20 per cent would be able to run on leaded petrol for the rest of the life of the cars.

Mr Botha said in the statement the authorities would begin monitoring the atmosphere in selected areas in South Africa at the beginning of next year to determine the effect of motor vehicle emissions on atmospheric pollution in South Africa. Once the study had been completed a decision would be taken on whether or not catalytic converters would be made compulsory. The converters help reduce pollution caused by motor vehicle emissions.

The statement said South Africa was already benefiting from the catalytic converter market which had created jobs and wealth. "Our local industry manufactures and exports these converters to the value of many millions (of rands) annually. It is probably the motor industry's single most important export component," the statement said. It added that the motor industry would increasingly fit vehicles with converters or with space to fit them later.

According to the statement, the European Union had stipulated that catalytic converters were compulsory on all new vehicles sold from January 1 last year.

"It is clear that this is the way the international motor vehicle industry and its markets are going. South Africa is already beginning to embrace this trend.

"Once the necessary groundwork has been done, I intend to take the whole unleaded petrol issue to the cabinet," Mr Botha concluded.

### Researcher Joins International Expedition to Antarctica

*MB2812144694 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1341 GMT 28 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town Dec 28 SAPA—A South African researcher is one of a six-member international team to study whale populations of Antarctica

next year. Two research ships provided to the International Whaling Commission [IWC] by Japan will leave Cape Town on January 5 with a full scientific complement for a 60-day research cruise in the Antarctic.

The ships will arrive in Cape Town on January 2 in preparation for the 17th annual IWC/International Decade of Cetacean Research Southern Hemisphere minke whale assessment cruise.

Mr Paul Ensor of New Zealand is the cruise leader and in charge of all research activities. Mr Hiroyuki Shimada of Japan is a senior scientist and directs the activities aboard one of the ships. Ken Findlay of South Africa,

Martin Cawthorn of New Zealand, Miranda Brown of the United Kingdom, and Masahiro Kawasaki of Japan complete the research team.

The primary objective is to estimate the population size and distribution of minke whales in the research area, although information on sightings of all species of whales and dolphins is recorded. Other research activity includes the collection of skin samples for genetic analysis, photographing whales for identification of individuals and the collection of behavioural data. No animals will be captured or killed. The results of the study will be presented at the annual meeting of the IWC in May next year.



## **Two Hundred Forty Tonnes of Radioactive Waste Unearthed in Central Harbin**

HK1911035894 Hong Kong MING PAO in Chinese  
18 Nov 94 p B4

["Special dispatch": "Over 200 Tonnes of Radioactive Waste Contaminates a 400-Square-Meter Area in Harbin"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last month, environmental protection workers in Harbin, Heilongjiang, unearthed 240 tonnes of radioactive waste that had been buried for more than 20 years. This shows that the disposal of dangerous industrial waste badly needs improvement. According to a report, the unearthed waste poses a grave health hazard because it could damage bones and reproductive organs, which could lead to birth defects. The report adds that soil contaminated by the waste for long periods would pollute the surrounding air and underground water, but it does not say whether or not the health of residents in the neighborhood has been affected.

The 240 tonnes of unearthed waste was a by-product of Ra-26, which was used by a military factory in the production of fluorescent meters for aircraft.

The waste was buried in a dozen pits and wells in the 1960's, contaminating a 400-square-meter area in the city center.

The ZHONGGUO QINGNIAN BAO report says that the waste is the province's biggest radioactive waste problem, suggesting that other dumps also exist in Heilongjiang.

For decades, China pursued industrial development, particularly in heavy industry, without any concern for environmental protection. Waste products were simply buried, burned, or dumped untreated into waterways.

Harbin's environmental protection officials have been trying for five years to have proper facilities built for storing radioactive waste, but factories argue that they do not have the funding.

A gold mine, for example, refused to set up waste storage facilities or to build walls to control pollution, arguing that it did not have the money. As a result, for years, it has produced thousands of tons of radioactive thorium in the process of production each year.

An environmental protection engineer of Heilongjiang Province said that by law, enterprises that produce radioactive waste must build proper storage facilities. "The reality before us, however, is that few enterprises are willing to spend the money," he added.

## **Endangered Wildlife 'Multiplying' in Northwest**

OW0401110795 Beijing XINHUA in English  
0950 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Xian, January 4 (XINHUA)—Once endangered rare animals and birds are multiplying in northwest China as a result of effective protection measures.

Chinese zoologists have confirmed that those increasing in number in the area include the crested ibis, black-necked crane, the takin, argali, golden monkey and giant panda.

In fact, crested ibises spotted in the region have exceeded 30, black-necked cranes have gone over 700, while takins number more than 1,000, and giant pandas are found in the hundreds, according to Zheng Shengwu, an animal researcher.

In the Duohai Migrant Bird Reserve in Gansu Province alone, over 50 black-necked cranes, and more than 100 swans have been found, double the figure of 1982.

Thousands of migratory birds frequent the Lanzhou (capital of Gansu Province) section of the Yellow River, where, prior to 1980, there was almost no sign of them.

Large numbers of takin haunt the Niubeiliang Nature Reserve in Shaanxi Province.

The region began to intensify protection measures in 1981 when seven precious crested ibises, believed to be extinct in the country, were spotted in Yangxi County, Shaanxi Province, Mr. Zheng said.

Over the past decade, 58 nature reserves were founded in the area, embracing Shaanxi, Gansu, and Qinghai provinces, and the Ningxia Hui and Xinjiang Uygur autonomous regions. The Northwest Endangered Animal Research Institute, where Zheng works, was also set up.

In order to extend adequate protection, experts believed that an important thing to do was to make certain of the exact number of the existing rare species, Zheng said.

By conducting an in-depth survey, they reached the conclusion that the region boasted 39 species of animals and birds under top state protection, making up 38.61 percent of the national total, and 105 species under second level protection, accounting for 38.38 percent of the total.

The survey also proved the location, number, living habits, and environment of the crested ibis, black-necked cranes, white-lipped deer, golden monkey, and giant panda.

Among the findings, research on the crested ibis, black-necked crane, takin, and rare Tibetan animals have already passed expert appraisal, with some of them winners of prizes granted by the central and provincial governments.

The study has also aroused the attention and interest of international zoologists, Zheng said.

Cooperation over the past several years has included a Sino-U.S. joint study of the snow leopard (1984-1988); a Sino-Japanese investigation of the white-lipped deer (1986-1990); and an on-going Chinese-Japanese survey of the ecological conditions for the existence of crested ibis.

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**Fujian Governor on Pollution, Harnessing of Rivers**

HK0401134995 Fuzhou Fujian People's Radio Network  
in Mandarin 2300 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Being concerned about comprehensive management of the environment in the Min Jiang basin, Governor Chen Mingyi asked leaders of all localities and the relevant departments to adopt a responsible attitude on stopping pollution in the Min Jiang. During an inspection of Nanping Prefecture not long ago, Governor Chen Mingyi specially checked the pollution in the Nanping section of the river, telling local leaders and his entourage: We are all children of the Min Jiang; if we pollute the river, we will have a guilty conscience before our grandchildren.

During a provincial economic work meeting, Governor Chen Mingyi personally held a discussion on harnessing the Min Jiang. Together with Vice Governor Shi Xingmou, he summoned leaders from the Min Jiang basin, prefectures, cities, the provincial environmental protection bureau, the provincial economic commission, the provincial planning commission, the provincial science and technology commission, and other relevant provincial departments and bureaus, to a meeting to discuss ways of harnessing the river. Governor Chen Mingyi said: The central authorities are responsible for harnessing the Huai He, and we are responsible for harnessing the Min Jiang. By harnessing the Min Jiang, we will bring along the harnessing of the Jiulong Jiang and the Jin Jiang, so that the water quality of rivers in the province will fundamentally change. He further pointed out: Curbing pollution must proceed first, according to law, and second, according to scientific rules. Leaders of all localities and the relevant departments must discuss methods of environmental protection in the course of seeking good production methods. People up and down the province must improve their mentality about environmental protection.

**UN Helps Improve Environment in Shanghai Port**

OW3112182594 Beijing XINHUA in English  
1430 GMT 31 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Shanghai, December 31 (XINHUA)—The Global Environmental Protection Fund of the United Nations will pour 50 million yuan to help improve environmental conditions in the Shanghai Port in east China.

According to a contract signed here on Friday, the special fund will be used to update environmental protection facilities in the largest port in China.

Chevalier (H.K.) Group of Hong Kong has been awarded the contract through international bidding. The first phase project will include two furnaces with a capacity of burning 500 kg of refuse per hour.

**Reporters Briefed on Three Gorges Project**

OW0101120895 Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service  
in Chinese 1809 GMT 20 Dec 94

[By RENMIN RIBAO reporter Jiang Shijie (3068 0013 2638) and XINHUA reporter Lu Yongjian (7773 3057 1696)]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beijing, 20 Dec (XINHUA)—Construction of the Three Gorges Multipurpose Water Control Project on the Chang Jiang, which has commanded international attention, officially commenced on 14 December. Zeng Jianhui, director of the State Council Information Office, held a news conference this morning for Chinese and foreign reporters. Guo Shuyan, Li Shizhong, Lu Youmei, and Tang Zhangjin, officials in charge of the State Council's Three Gorges Project Construction Committee, were invited to answer questions raised by the Chinese and foreign reporters.

**Preparations for Construction and Sources of Funds**

**Unidentified Chinese reporter:** Preparations had been under way for more than a year before construction of the Three Gorges Project officially began. Is construction proceeding according to plan, and can the project be completed on schedule?

**Lu Youmei:** The construction period for the Three Gorges Project is 17 years from the time preparations began in 1993 to its completion in 2009. The period before the official commencement of construction was the preparatory stage. All preparations have been completed according to plan, and construction has officially begun. The current pace of construction is in full compliance with the master construction plan. Specifically, the first stage of the cofferdam on the right bank and the sluiceway of the Maopingxi protective project have been completed. Construction of special access roads is proceeding smoothly as are ground-leveling, concrete-mixing, and graveling projects. With the assistance of people across the nation and the support of relevant departments, the collection of money for the Three Gorges fund has proceeded expeditiously, and the money has been delivered to the relevant units on a timely basis. Concrete-pouring for the main structure of the project began on 14 December, thus signaling the official commencement of construction of the structure.

**Unidentified Hong Kong reporter:** Will the amount of 90 billion yuan needed for the project remain at the same level or be subject to changes? How will you raise such a vast sum? Will you consider bringing in funds from abroad?

**Guo Shuyan:** The Three Gorges Project requires a sizable amount of capital. The fixed amount of capital, as calculated in terms of prices at the end of May 1993, is 90 billion yuan. The project will begin generating income after the first set of generators goes on line in the 11th year (the year 2003) of construction. A balance in funds will be struck in the 13th year (the year 2005). Therefore, funds will be raised mainly during the first 13 years. The

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amount of funds needed on an ongoing basis before the year when a balance is struck will be 146.8 billion yuan.

Funds for the Three Gorges Project can be raised through three channels. The first is the construction fund for the Three Gorges Project. Nationwide, one li [a monetary unit equivalent to one thousandth of a yuan] will be charged for each additional kwh of electricity. The second is the profits generated by the Gezhouba Power Plant. Funds raised through these two channels can satisfy some 50 percent of the capital needed before the year when a balance is struck. Profits generated by the Three Gorges Power Plant from the year 2003, when it begins generating electricity, to the year 2005 can provide approximately 7.5 percent of the funds needed, while loans from the State Development Bank can supply roughly 17 percent. Some \$600 million in potential export credit for major equipment will provide about 4.5 percent of the funds. We will also consider issuing international financing bonds and seeking international commercial credits.

**Unidentified British reporter:** When will you issue international financing bonds for the Three Gorges Project? Who will serve as the intermediary body?

**Guo Shuyan:** China has retained some renowned international financial consulting firms for consultation and design services regarding the Three Gorges financing bonds, and for helping us to draw up relevant plans. They all believe the bonds should be issued in the initial stages of the Three Gorges Project. The bonds, which may be floated next year, will be issued in yearly installments. We have not yet decided on the intermediary body.

**Unidentified German reporter:** Why not obtain World Bank loans for the Three Gorges Project?

**Guo Shuyan:** China is a developing country that is actively seeking the World Bank's support for many of its construction projects. We do not plan to do the same with the Three Gorges Project, because we do not want to block the funding channels for other projects. Moreover, World Bank members are mostly developed countries who have varying views of the environmental appraisal for the Three Gorges Project. Construction of the project may be delayed if we refer it to the World Bank for discussion.

#### **Major Equipment and Construction Methods**

**Unidentified Chinese reporter:** The Three Gorges Project needs a large amount of major equipment. How will you solve this problem?

**Lu Youmei:** The Three Gorges Project will require large machinery and electrical equipment from around the world. We will select, through international bidding, equipment produced by manufacturers known for top quality and service from around the world. The project, which needs as many as 26 sets of 700,000-kw water turbogenerators, currently constitutes the world's largest

market for these top-notch water turbogenerators. To adopt advanced foreign technology, and to promote the development of China's national industries, we will follow the principle of joint production with foreign countries in producing large water turbogenerators, power transmission equipment, and transformers. We will put out international tenders. Foreign manufacturers are welcome to enter bids for water turbogenerators and other major equipment. Domestic plants are also encouraged to jointly design and manufacture relevant equipment with their foreign counterparts.

**Unidentified Chinese reporter:** What kinds of Chinese enterprises will have a role to play in the Three Gorges Project? Can you set a timetable for the Three Gorges Project based on market demand?

**Lu Youmei:** The Three Gorges Project will be launched according to socialist market economic principles. We will select construction units through competition under the system of holding the operators responsible, the bidding contract system, the project supervision and management system, and the contract management system. Thus far, more than 20 units have won the competition for construction. Because of strong demand from the Three Gorges Project, construction materials enterprises, especially those producing steel products and cement, will have a tremendous role to play. And international bidding for the major equipment has commenced, and 371 contracts worth a total of 4.46 billion yuan have been signed.

The fixed amount of investment for the pivotal part of the Three Gorges Project is 50 billion yuan. Tenders for advanced construction equipment needed for the project will be invited in 1995. International bidding for generators and other main equipment will be conducted in 1996.

#### **Environmental Protection**

**Unidentified American reporter:** When will tour boats be stopped from sailing after the damming of the Chang Jiang? It is said that towering waves reaching 80 meters [m] will be formed at the foot of the dam. Will there be any security measures? Sewage from Chongqing city will affect the water quality of the Three Gorges. Are cleanup fees included in the construction funds for the Three Gorges Project?

**Lu Youmei:** When the Chang Jiang is dammed in 1997, a flow-directing canal will have been in place on the right bank and a temporary shiplock will have been installed on the left bank. Ships will be able to navigate, and shipping in the Chang Jiang will not be affected. Nevertheless, shipping may be suspended for two to three months before the water level in the reservoir reaches 135 m. Travelers can transfer on land. A permanent shiplock will be put to use after the water level reaches 135 m. Generally speaking, travel will not be affected significantly.

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Talk of 80-m-high towering waves being formed at the foot of the dam when the water level in the reservoir reaches 175 m is purely a result of misunderstandings. The water in the reservoir will be released mainly through the generation of electricity by water turbogenerators, and flood-discharge facilities will also help release water from the dam during the flood season. Given these water-diverting functions, 80-m-high towering waves will not be formed.

**Guo Shuyan:** As the Three Gorges Project will elevate the water level in the Chongqing section of the Chang Jiang by merely 1.5 m, it will not block sewers in the city proper. Nevertheless, the discharge of sewage is indeed a problem. Chongqing city needs to improve its sewage treatment. Approximately 70 percent of the sewage in the Three Gorges dam area will come from Chongqing. Funds needed by Chongqing city for sewage treatment are not included in the construction funds for the Three Gorges Project. They will be raised through government allocations and loans, and with the support of international financial institutions.

**Unidentified Italian reporter:** The construction of huge dams in some countries has caused climatic changes. Why do you think the Three Gorges Project will not have a disastrous effect on the climate around the Chang Jiang?

**Guo Shuyan:** As the Three Gorges reservoir is located in a river course, the water level will not increase significantly. The climate will not be affected greatly. Roughly speaking, temperatures during the summer will decrease 1 to 1.5 degrees Celsius in areas between Chongqing and Yichang, while temperatures during the winter will rise by 0.8 to 1.3 degrees. The number of foggy days will increase by two days from the 60 days or so at present.

**Unidentified German reporter:** What actions will you take to deal with silt?

**Guo Shuyan:** Silt is a big problem for the Three Gorges Project. Every year, 5 billion tonnes of silt pass through Yichang. Three problems will arise from the dam's construction. The first is the effect of silt on shipping. According to experimentation with water control models, silt will not affect shipping within 30 to 50 years of the dam's construction. We can think of a way to solve problems arising thereafter. The second is the effect of silt on areas downstream from the reservoir, especially on the ports in Chongqing. Current experimentation with water control models shows that there will be no significant effects overall within 20 years of the dam's construction. Proper siting of the ports after that can help solve this problem. The third is the buildup of silt in the reservoir. Through the disposal of muddy water at low levels during the flood season and the storage of clear water after floods, waterborne silt can reach a state of equilibrium after the Three Gorges reservoir has been in operation for 90 years. Feasibility studies are being conducted on the silting problem. Siltation experts have discussed this problem thoroughly and concluded that it

can be solved. For the sake of meticulousness and safety, the Three Gorges Project Construction Committee established a siltation expert team in September 1993, which is continuing experimentation using physical and mathematical models on siltation.

#### **Preservation of Cultural Relics in the Three Gorges Open Economic Zone and in the Reservoir Area**

**Unidentified Chinese reporter:** What is the significance of the State Council's decision to designate the Three Gorges reservoir area as an open economic zone? What are the priorities in developing the Three Gorges Open Economic Zone?

**Tang Zhangjin:** The establishment of the Three Gorges Open Economic Zone and the implementation of policy on coastal economic open areas will surely play an important role in encouraging cities and counties in the reservoir area to extensively bring in domestic and foreign capital, technology, skilled personnel, and management expertise to promote local economic development and resettle displaced people. The Three Gorges reservoir area, which abounds in resources, has vast potential for development. 1) We can develop agricultural, sideline, and special local products, as well as the processing of food, light industrial, and textile products. 2) There are 53 types of mineral resources, the main ones being natural gas, salt, phosphorus, pyrites, and limestone. We can develop energy, chemical, and construction materials industries. 3) We can develop tourism and build the reservoir area into a tourist destination. Tourism-based tertiary industries are expected to develop greatly. Along with the resettlement of residents from the reservoir area, the relevant departments are currently drawing up the "Outlines of the Plan for Economic Development in the Three Gorges Area." We believe that the establishment of the Three Gorges Open Economic Zone will gradually help turn the Three Gorges reservoir area into an economically prosperous and environmentally enchanting new economic zone on the upper reaches of the Chang Jiang, where people live and work in peace and contentment.

**Unidentified Chinese reporter:** Both the Chang Jiang and Huang He are the cradle of splendid Chinese culture. The Three Gorges reservoir area is full of cultural sites. How will you preserve them following the construction of the Three Gorges Project?

**Tang Zhangjin:** Preliminary investigations and surveys show that a cultural unit under state protection and three cultural units under provincial protection will be submerged as a direct result of the Three Gorges Project. There are three scenarios in this respect: 1) Fully submerged. The Temple of Zhang Fei in Yunyang is a case in point. 2) Slightly submerged. We are trying our best to preserve slightly submerged sites. 3) Cultural relics will not be affected. These sites will become new scenes as a result of environmental changes, and we will make them even more enchanting. Moreover, a new lot of cultural relics, which may possibly be unearthed during the

construction of the dam, may become new tourist spots. In sum, we will continue to conduct investigations and surveys and devise new plans as we try our best to preserve cultural relics.

#### **The Resettlement of Residents From the Reservoir Area**

Before fielding reporters' questions, Guo Shuyan said: The Chinese Government has repeatedly stressed the importance of resettlement to the success or failure of the Three Gorges Project. Total budgeted compensation for resettling residents from the Three Gorges reservoir area is estimated at 40 billion yuan in terms of prices at the end of May 1993. This sum, which can compensate for losses caused by inundation, can also be used for developing the reservoir area on an appropriate scale. Compared to other hydropower projects, this is quite a generous sum. Except for that portion to be kept in reserve by the central government, all the money will also be allocated proportionately to Hubei and Sichuan Provinces in accordance with the principle of "assigning responsibility to different provinces, with counties as the basis, under unified central leadership." During the course of implementing this principle, we should also consider the factor of price increases. This is a major measure for resettling residents from the Three Gorges reservoir area that is endorsed and supported by the two provinces. Furthermore, a pattern of nationwide support for the resettlement of residents from the Three Gorges reservoir area has initially taken shape, with each province helping each county in the reservoir area. An additional 330 support projects have been launched in various provinces and municipalities this year. By 14 December when construction of the Three Gorges Project officially began, the task of requisitioning 24,506 mu of land in the dam area and resettling 4,808 families and 14,550 people from that same area, had been basically completed.

#### **Forest Coverage in Zhejiang Province Ranks First in Nation**

OW0101144895 Beijing XINHUA in English  
1320 GMT 1 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hangzhou, January 1 (XINHUA)—Forest coverage in east China's Zhejiang Province has reached 54.7 percent, ranking it first in the country, thanks to years of efforts in upgrading local forests.

The province has hit the target of "covering barren hills with trees" one year ahead of schedule, bringing with it an annual increase of more than two million cu m of timber.

Statistics show that it has improved and planted 2.7 million ha of forests over the past decade, involving 500 million trees. Timber storage in the province now stands at over 120 million cu m.

The provincial government launched a forestry fund program to encourage afforestation in 1989, bringing an annual investment of more than 100 million yuan for forest projects.

Local officials also attributed the forest boom to the promulgation of a dozen of regulations on forests. They said these regulations have protected local forest reserves and provided an impetus to their further development.

#### **Jiang Chunyun Stresses Importance of Afforestation**

OW0101172895 Beijing Central People's Radio Network  
in Mandarin 1030 GMT 20 Dec 94

[From the "National Hookup" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] While addressing a national conference of directors of forestry departments and bureaus yesterday, Jiang Chunyun, member of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau and Secretariat, pointed out: China plans to produce 50 billion more kilograms of grains by the year of 2000. Whether we can accomplish this goal or not largely depends on the future results of our afforestation projects. He said: China has not yet completed afforestation in its vast barren mountains and areas. Many areas are still suffering from serious disasters such as floods and droughts, or from the problem of soil erosion. Governments at all levels must regard improving the quantity and quality of trees and completing the afforestation task as a great systematic project. Discipline inspection commissions, financial, banking, labor, and material supply departments at all levels must provide preferential treatment and necessary and sufficient support to afforestation projects by supplying qualified personnel, funds, and material.

Jiang Chunyun said emphatically: Bureaus and departments at all levels must bear in mind the goal of accomplishing the second strategic plan for national economy and attach importance to and strengthen afforestation.

#### **NPC Member Stresses Protecting Environment, Property Rights**

HK0201065395 Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING  
POST (BUSINESS POST) in English 2 Jan 95 p 3

["View point" column by Li Yining, head of Beijing University's Department of Economics and Management and standing committee member of the National People's Congress: "Property Rights Essential to Caring for Environment"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Conservation of resources is very significant to both the economic development and environmental protection in China and is, in fact, closely related to a clear definition of property rights. Understandably, some investors in the past did not treasure natural resources because property rights were not clearly defined.

So the question in the context of economic reform is: How can we promote the concept of conservation and protection of resources backed by the idea of property rights?

The analysis can focus on three aspects.

Firstly, the state should introduce laws and regulations to guide the recovery and the use of natural resources. Based on these regulations, the government could introduce a licensing system to supervise investors exploiting and using resources.

Also through legislation the state can prevent illegal mining and stop the abuse of natural resources. For resources which cannot be recycled, the government should impose a quota system on recovery and use. Restrictions should also be imposed on the transfer of property rights to avoid irrational mining.

This would clarify investor property rights and they would be able to exploit natural resources more reasonably. Again, to prevent irrational mining, resources could be transferred on a schedule. The state should take into account the immediate well-being of its people as well as the long-term benefit of society and future generations.

These should be the principles behind regulations on the use and recovery of resources. As rights to exploit resources become common practice, controls on mining become more essential to the long-term benefit of society.

Secondly, with the establishment of property rights, a price mechanism can guarantee rational exploitation and use of resources; the price should reflect both the cost of recovery and eventual income.

The cost must include three components. The first being the cost of production, including fees generated at that stage and during operation and trading. The second element is the cost of consuming a limited natural resource. The third element is the environmental fee—compensation and the cost of managing the environment which may be damaged in the mining process.

Obviously, it would be wrong to count only the production cost in the calculation and neglect compensation for both consumption of a limited resource and environmental damage. Natural resources are the common assets of all mankind and of society; they are finite so investors should pay a fee for their consumption.

The same rationale can be applied to the management fee and compensation for environmental damage. The natural environment is owned by all people. However, mining and resource exploitation damage that environment, more especially in some industries. Thus, the miners should also pay management fees and compensation for the environmental problems they cause.

Assuming that the cost now includes these three elements—production cost consumption fees and environmental management fees—the price should reflect the property rights of all mankind. In the other words, it confirms that natural resources are commonly owned by people.

Prices are formed spontaneously. It is impossible to put production cost, consumption cost, environmental compensation and management fees together.

That is why we need the government to impose taxes on resources consumption. The consumption cost, management fees and compensations should be fixed first. Then the prices for different materials can be adjusted by the market.

The third major point is that investors and users of natural resources should have the concepts of environmental protection and conservation well established in their minds.

This would lead to a better understanding of property rights and the fact that resources are the common assets of all mankind. If there is a lack of environmental awareness, rational use of natural resources would be impossible, even with property rights.

Programmes regarding the above three areas should be implemented in unison. Only through the balanced promotion of these three areas can reasonable use of resources be achieved and property rights clearly defined. Also, the distribution of resources will become more efficient and fair.

#### **Official Calls British Environmentalist's Speech 'Vulgar'**

*HK0301054395 Hong Kong EASTERN EXPRESS  
in English 3 Jan 95 pp 1*

[By Bruce Gilley and Nick Squires]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chinese officials have branded as "vulgar and hostile" a British academic's speech on environmental education that was banned from a conference in Guangzhou at the weekend. A British scholar, John Huckle of De Montfort University, Bedford, England, yesterday defended his planned presentation—on the use of television to promote green awareness—and claimed that the conference organisers knew about the contents in advance.

The censoring of Hong Kong and overseas academics at the first International Environmental Education Conference in Guangzhou, which ended on Saturday, could prove an embarrassment to the Hong Kong organiser, Friends of the Earth, which Chinese officials claim consented to the gag orders. Friends of the Earth officials were unavailable for comment yesterday.

The director of the Guangzhou Environmental Protection Office (EPO), Gan Haizhang, who chaired the conference, yesterday attacked the contents of Huckle's paper. "This was not serious, scientific material," Gan said. "He tried to force his political viewpoint on to others.

"My personal view is that it was vulgar and hostile."

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The paper, which was torn from conference booklets on the opening day, contained written extracts from nine British video documentaries on China's environment, highlighting political constraints on action by citizens.

Gan said the contents were "relatively sensitive" and would have ruined the atmosphere of fruitful academic exchange that the conference aimed to promote. "We are not afraid of debate" he said. "But if one side forces its ideas on another then it destroys the atmosphere."

The decision to cancel Huckle's presentation was taken by the Guangzhou EPO and Friends of the Earth without pressure from higher authorities, Gan said.

Huckle admitted yesterday that his paper, which encourages students to challenge the views of governments and state media on the environment, focused on politically sensitive issues. "It was obviously going to be challenging to the Chinese authorities," he said. "It was fairly critical of the Chinese environmental record recently."

"The notion that we should teach young people to watch the media in a critical way and that we should explore the representation of (environmental) issues in terms of who controls it was something they didn't like."

"My perspective on environmental education is critical and the Chinese are not used to that. They are thinking in terms of environmental science and propaganda."

Huckle said he was three months late in submitting his paper for approval by the EPO in September and said the delay was used as an excuse for the ban. Huckle, a committed socialist, said: "They knew who they were inviting (to the conference) when they asked me. I kept them informed of what I was preparing."

He said he had little choice but to accept the organisers' decision. "I didn't want to embarrass them in any way. Outside the conference, I found teachers and government officials refreshingly honest."

"They recognised that they have major problems to solve."

#### **Japanese Loans To Be Used in 40 Projects**

*OW2912135494 Beijing XINHUA in English  
1319 GMT 29 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, December 29 (XINHUA)—The fourth group of loans Japan has provided for China amounting to 580 billion yen during the period 1996 to 1998, will be used for construction in 40 projects.

An official from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation said that the majority of the projects concern environmental protection and agriculture, with many located in northwest and southwest China.

The official expressed hope that the two countries, whose representatives held two-day discussions from the 21 of

this month, could further cooperate in making loans play an important role in China's economy.

It was also explained that the two countries will further examine and discuss the amount of capital, and the contents and conditions of each project.

Decisions concerning the above issues will be based on results of the annual governmental discussions between the two sides and technical research made by units carrying out the projects.

#### **Northwest Region Taps Natural Resources**

*OW2612031394 Beijing XINHUA in English  
0220 GMT 26 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, December 26 (XINHUA)—The remote and once desolate Northwest China is striving to revive its prosperity in the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220) and the Tang Dynasty (618-907) by tapping the rich natural resources in the mountains, deserts and rivers.

Forty percent of China's oil, 50 percent of natural gas and 60 percent of coal, almost all the reserves of nickel, potassium, strontium, beryllium and lithium, and large amount of gold, copper, molybdenum, lead and zinc is contained in the sparsely-populated region.

The Northwest, including Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Regions, Gansu Province, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Regions, Qinghai Province and Shaanxi province, is one of the richest regions to be exploited in the world.

Favorable policies and official support have ignited the enthusiasm of developing the resources. As a result, since the late 1980s, the gross national product and the industrial output in the Northwest China have grown with double-digit rates annually.

In the Junggar Basin, the Tarim Basin, the Turpan and Hami Basins in Xinjiang, 35 oil and gas fields have been located, 20 have seen their construction completed or being carried out.

The basins, regarded as the "Sea of Hopes" already pumping out crude oil of 13 million tons each year, will turn into a new engine driving China's petrochemical industry.

China's largest natural gas field, covering 2,000 sq km, has been found where Shaanxi, Gansu and Ningxia meet.

In the upper reaches of the Yellow River, "Golden Water Route", five hydroelectric stations have been in operation with generating capacity of 3.24 million kw, accounting for over 50 percent of the electricity in the Northwest China power network.

When other stations on the river are put into use by 1996 as scheduled, the power network will have a generating capacity of 5.9 million kw, exceeding that built in dozens of years before 1985.

Shenfu in Shaanxi, one of the largest high-quality coal fields on the earth, Taixi in Ningxia, the best anthracite coal field in China, and the resources of ferrous and nonferrous metal in the Chaidamu basin in Xinjiang are being developed.

Pooling the natural resources have provided opportunities for major industries to retrench themselves in Northwest China, and have propelled the industrial output to 184.8 billion yuan this year from 77.12 billion yuan in 1988.

The Northwest China is dotted with nearly 900 large- and medium-sized enterprises, such as Karamay Oil Administration, Jinchuan and Baiyin nonferrous metal companies, Liujiaxia hydropower station, spreading in five industrial belts.

Huge petrochemical plants are seen from Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang, to Lanzhou, capital of Gansu, to Karamay in Xinjiang.

Lanzhou and Xining, capital of Qinghai, and Yinchuan, capital of Ningxia, are tapping the water resources in the upper reaches of the Yellow river and streamlining nonferrous metal metallurgical sector.

Firms handling machinery, military projects and electronics have gathered around Xian, capital of Shaanxi, Baoji in west Shaanxi, and Lanzhou. Industries of cotton and wool spinning and chemical fibers have been constructed with Urumqi as the core. And a coal industrial belt is extending from shenfu in north shaanxi, to Yinchuan.

Thanks to the thriving energy and raw materials industries, communication, telecommunications and other infrastructure projects have been upgraded.

Over 10 billion yuan have flown into the sectors of railways, highways and civil aviation, focusing on constructing the Lanzhou- Xinjiang double lines, the highway from Horgos in Xinjiang to Lianyungang in East China's Jiangsu province, and expanding airports in Urumqi and other cities.

With the inauguration of the optical cable from Lanzhou to Urumqi, the telecommunication capacity has been multiplied in Northwest China.

To date, 95 percent of major cities have installed digital facilities and switch-boards while mobile telephones, wireless paging and digital facsimile having entered daily life there.

More than 100 industrial cities, including "Oil City" Karamay, "Nickel Capital" Jinchang, "Salt City" Germu, "Rare Metal Kingdom" Keketuohai, and "Hydroelectric Pearl along the Yellow River" Longyangxia, have mushroomed as new economic pillars.

A balanced industrial structure will appear in Northwest China, relying on resources and heavy industries and

cultivating processing and light industries, so as to ensure an economic takeoff in this once glorious part of China in the 21st century.

### **Sichuan Overfulfills State Afforestation Plan**

*OW2612044094 Beijing XINHUA in English  
0419 GMT 26 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chengdu, December 26 (XINHUA)—Southwest China's Sichuan Province has overfulfilled the annual quota for a national afforestation project funded by the World Bank this year.

According to the Sichuan Provincial Forestry Bureau, the province has covered 24,000 hectares of hilly areas with trees, fulfilling the planned quota by 105.3 percent, and used 54.64 million Yuan in afforestation, 58 percent of which were loans from the World Bank.

Located on the upper reaches of the Chang Jiang River, Sichuan was assigned to plant trees on 22,800 hectares according to the national afforestation project.

All indexes of the afforestation were proven to be up to the set standards in a recent technical assessment and approval.

### **Jiangsu Sewage Treatment Plant Begins Operations**

*OW2712040794 Beijing XINHUA in English  
0259 GMT 27 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nanjing, December 27 (XINHUA)—Local residents along the polluted Huaihe River may have cleaner water from the river as a sewage treatment project, the first in the region, came into operation recently.

The Xuzhou Sewage Treatment Plant in north of east China's Jiangsu Province treats 100,000 tons of sewage water daily. It is expected to increase its daily treatment capacity up to 135,000 tons when the whole project is completed.

Construction of the 14-ha [hectare] -sewage plant began in February, 1993, and it is the first big step taken by local governments to bring water pollution under control by 1997 in line with a campaign launched by the Central Government.

The project is expected to control the increasing water pollution in the 180 km-Kuihe River, one of the major branches of the Huaihe River flowing west-east through Henan, Anhui, Shandong and Jiangsu provinces.

The Kuihe River, with 124 factories and 400,000 residents in Xuzhou city draining off more than 90,000 tons of industrial and domestic sewage water daily, is a major pollution source which harms the living environment of more than 600,000 souls along the lower reaches of the Huaihe River in Jiangsu and Anhui provinces.

Both surface and underground water in some part of the Huaihe River Valley have been seriously contaminated several times since the early 1980s when thousands of rural and township enterprises came into being.

The Guishan Village in Hongze County, where the Huaihe River empties into sea through the Hongze Lake, suffered a direct loss of more than two million yuan (235,000 U.S. dollars) because of water contamination.

Among 3,000 heavy water pollutant dischargers in China, 160 are located in the Huaihe River Valley. Both urban and rural enterprises of its 182 county towns and townships drained a total of 2.31 billion tons of sewage water including 1.61 billion tons of industrial sewage in 1993.

#### **Jiangxi To Use World Bank Loan for Afforestation**

*OW2312022994 Beijing XINHUA in English  
0151 GMT 23 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nanchang, December 23 (XINHUA)—Central China's Jiangxi Province will use World Bank loans to develop afforestation, according to a recent meeting of the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Forestry held in Jingdezhen city.

The province is to invest some 200 million yuan (23.5 million U.S. dollars) in a 12,000-hectare afforestation project covering 24 counties, of which 120 million yuan (14.1 million U.S. dollars) will be loaned by the World Bank.

"The project is expected to promote the afforestation in Jiangxi, a major forest producer in East China, in the direction of high space and high efficiency", a provincial official said.

#### **Environment Improvement Project Approved for Beijing**

*HK1912071294 Beijing CHINA DAILY in English  
19 Dec 94 p 3*

[By Chen Chunmei: Beijing Starting to Get Clean"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A \$458 million environmental improvement project will begin next year in Beijing. The project's 5-year objectives are to improve the quality of air, drinking water, industrial waste disposal and to increase the influence of environmental agencies. A loan of \$157 million and two technical assistance grants totalling \$1.025 million were approved for the project by the Asian Development Bank last month.

The project's largest component will be connecting Beijing's 107 kilometre high and medium pressure pipelines to the natural gas supply network of Shan-Gan-Ning Gas Field in Shaanxi Province.

The \$210-million connection will supply the city with 700 million cubic metres of natural gas annually as a heating replacement for coal, which blackens the Beijing sky.

A heat-supplying pipeline system will connect buildings to the Huaneng Heat and Power Plant to further curb the burning of coal for winter heating.

This system will boast 42 kilometres of pipe-line, completed with a transmission and distribution network. The system is expected to supply heat for 19 million square metres per hour. The project also will deal with industrial hazardous wastes, said Lou Renjun, an official with Beijing Environmental Project Office.

The project will relocate and renovate a chemical plant with special disposal facilities for Beijing's hazardous industrial waste.

Trees will be planted, terraces will be constructed and dams will be checked to minimize erosion and control pollution in the city's drinking-water reservoirs.

Meanwhile, a \$125-million World Bank loan will help Beijing with another environmental improvement project due to be completed in 1997.

This project entails the construction of a heating system in Shijingshan District.

#### **Senior Officials To Meet Over Crossborder Pollution**

*HK1912055994 Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA  
MORNING POST in English 19 Dec 94 p 6*

[By Patricia Young]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Concern on both sides of the border over a proposed giant coal-burning power plant in Guangdong has become so great it will be discussed at a meeting between senior Chinese and Hong Kong officials. Both environmental protection departments are to meet in Hong Kong this week to hammer out the finer points concerning crossborder pollution after news of the plant was revealed by the South China Morning Post. The Hong Kong Guangdong Environmental Protection Joint Liaison Group will be co-headed by Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands Tony Eason and his mainland counterpart, Wang Yinkun.

Environmentalists are afraid prevailing winds will blow pollution from the plant, to be on the eastern shores of Mirs Bay in Guangdong, directly across Hong Kong. The massive 2,630 megawatt plant will be more than twice the size of the Lamma Island power plant. It will generate enough power to provide two-thirds of Hong Kong's total requirements. Beijing has given preliminary approval to plans proposed by Hopewell Holding subsidiary, Consolidate Electric Power Asia (CEPA). "This meeting is to look at all aspects of pollution," spokesman for the Planning Environment and Land Branch said.

"Every place in the world has problems with transborder pollution and we are trying to get a forum for co-operation started." But CEPA executive director Lawrence Miao feel concerns about pollution are misplaced. He claims the plant will meet World Bank standards for pollution. But independent pollution



experts believe those standards are not appropriate for Hong Kong since they apply to Third World developing nations.

In Europe guidelines for cross-border pollution are laid down in the UN Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Waste. While most of the regulations deal with soil waste, work is underway to include air pollution in new European Union regulations. "We are very open about our plans," Mr Miao said. "We regularly take groups of analysts, financial or otherwise, through our plants."

### EU Aid to Tibet 'Channelled Through Beijing'

MS1812140194 London *THE OBSERVER* in English  
18 Dec 94 p 11

[Anon Special Correspondent: "Tibetans Fear EU Aid Project Will Strengthen China's Grip"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Panam, Tibet—The European Union [EU] is pouring nearly 6 million pounds into an agricultural scheme that experts say will strengthen China's grip on Tibet and irrevocably damage its environment.

A trip by *The Observer* to Panam county, an area of mountain valleys 124 miles south-west of the capital Lhasa, found local Tibetans fearful that the project will overwhelm them with Chinese colonisers, destroy their traditional subsistence farming methods and exhaust the soil.

The 5.89m pounds (ecu 7.6m) grant for the Panam County Integrated Rural Development Project marks the first time the EU has authorised a major infrastructure subsidy for Peking since the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. It is the largest development scheme undertaken in Tibet by the EU and accounts for a third of the Union's aid for China and Tibet in 1995.

The Asia and Latin American Committee of the EU approved the project unanimously on 19 October, despite a European Parliament resolution two years ago that criticised China's human rights record in Tibet and called 'for the immediate reversal of policies that encourage the mass transfer of Chinese to Tibet'.

The non-binding resolution also called on the European Commission, the EU executive, to make 'the granting of assistance to China conditional on the observance of basic human rights, and freedoms, particularly in Tibet'. The demand was reiterated in another motion in September 1993. There is no provision in the project linking it with human rights.

China's record on human rights is notorious and human rights monitors have cited more than 60 arrests of Tibetans for political offences this year.

China invaded Tibet in 1950, forcing the Tibetan government into exile nine years later. It has between 40,000 and 50,000 troops in Tibet and has mounted a massive

'colonisation' campaign, involving pouring millions of pounds' worth of projects and hundreds of thousands of ethnic Chinese into the area.

The Dalai Lama—revered by Tibetans as a spiritual and political leader and an incarnation of Buddha—remains in exile in India. This year the Chinese banned Tibetans who work for the government from even having his picture.

The Panam project, details of which have not been released publicly but have been acquired by *The Observer*, is a proposal that was put together by Peking. The aid is channelled through Peking, and has just been put up for tender. The only way of reducing control by Chinese officials would have been to use non-governmental organisations.

Peter Guilford, spokesman for external economic relations for the Commission, says non-governmental organisations [NGO] 'participated' in the drafting of the scheme. But, in fact, this masks severe reservations by many NGO experts about the moral, environmental and agricultural features of the project.

Guilford says Medecins sans Frontieres [MSF] was involved in drafting stage, but MSF deny this. A spokesman said: 'We decided not to participate in the Panam project as it does not fit within our own criteria, as our priority is to work mainly in the poorest areas of Tibet.'

The project's goal is to turn Panam into Tibet's breadbasket, by helping local farmers boost harvests by as much as 10 per cent annually, using irrigation technology and skills provided by European experts. Theoretically, the local population, which is mainly Tibetan, should enjoy rising incomes and living standards.

Chinese officials have told Brussels that only 60 ethnic Chinese live in the area. *Observer* investigations show this is untrue. An *Observer* reporter found that hundreds of colonisers have already moved in, and apartments are being thrown up in the main town, Panam Dzong, to house thousands more.

A Chinese municipal official admitted that part of the scheme would be diverted to the colonisation effort. 'We're glad this scheme is coming to the area. It will provide water for new homes that are being built, and for the county offices,' he told an *Observer* source.

China—which is providing the remaining 11m pounds (ecu 14.2m) for the five-year scheme—earmarked Panam because its fertile soil guarantees quick returns. But a European who has worked on the project says Brussels blithely swallowed Peking's proposal and accuses the EU of helping an irrigation project to provide food for Chinese migrants. The project is especially controversial among Tibetans because Panam is already a successful farming area, which uses Tibetan methods of

irrigation. Farmers have been careful to rotate low-yield crops, such as barley, and let the land lie fallow.

But over the past few years, the Chinese have forced far-reaching changes on them in a push to increase wheat production and drive them to sell on the open cash market.

Farmers say they have been forced to substitute chemicals for yak-dung fertilisers, and pressed to use pesticides, which Tibetans, as Buddhists, eschew. County officials impose taxes on farmers who refuse to use pesticides and fertilisers.

An expert on Tibetan farming who lobbied EU officials to abandon the project warns that it could become a dustbowl. He said: 'The soil may look rich, but it will dry out from excessive farming, and farmers will then need a lot more fertiliser to increase harvests even by a small amount. In Tibet, the soil is so thin that you can quickly transform it into desert. Within a decade, the land at Panam will become a desert if this project goes ahead.' The expert refused to be named for fear of endangering funding for his work.

Reacting to The Observer's investigation, Peter Guilford insists that there was a 'detailed appraisal of all the environmental aspects of the project'. But, an official at the European Commission said last week that at no stage was a detailed study undertaken.

'Environmental impact was a question raised by member states while we were obtaining the green light (for the project),' said Jens Schellerup, of the Commission's Far Eastern economic relations department. 'We can't say we have made a detailed environmental impact. But we have considered all possibilities of the effect on environment.'

But experts in the region point out that careful formulation of any project is essential. 'In Tibet, as in other highland areas of central Asia, with extreme natural conditions and a high degree of climactic stress, various aspects of the ecosystem are more fragile, and not all standard economic and service innovations are financially sustainable,' says Dr Graham Clarke, development and anthropology, Oxford.

A further worry in Panam is that the scheme will add to pressure to abandon a trading tradition and way of life as venerable as Tibetan religious scrolls. In Panam county—an area of 386 square miles, with 30,000 inhabitants—farmers have traditionally operated on a barter system, swapping their cereal crops with nomads for sheep and yak. That is now changing to a cash system introduced by the Chinese, who are pushing farmers to grow wheat, a staple for Chinese but little used by Tibetans, who prefer barley.

The project raises a wider question about the EU's aid policy: has the European Union been fooled into subsidising schemes that seem designed to feed incoming Chinese?

Brussels sources say the project was presented by China's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Co-Operation (MoRec) and accepted without an independent investigation into whether other areas were in greater need. 'It was a proposal presented by to us by MoRec,' said Schellerup. 'We would have taken any other area proposed to us. It is difficult to examine all the alternatives. That would mean that the recipient at the end and the authorities would have to change everything around.'

Sources have disclosed to The Observer that the Commission was in fact criticised by member states and development agencies on the Asia and Latin American Committee of the EU. That panel vets aid proposals for those regions on the Council of Ministers, the EU's top decision-making body. 'There were a lot of questions from the member states, particularly about the sustainability of the project. The officials' answers filled a book,' said one source. The project, ALA/CHN/9419, remains in closed circulation and has never been submitted for debate at the European Parliament.

In a detailed defence of the project, Guilford says it 'has been prepared with a keen eye for the views of local people, as well as in close consultation with Tibetans within the local administration'.

But, as Robert Barnett of the Tibet Information Network, says: 'Tibet, like all of China, is run in a rigid, top-down structure and in our experience it is virtually impossible for any Tibetan to speak their mind openly, let alone to a foreign official in the presence of Chinese cadres.'

'The EU has accepted virtually wholesale the Chinese plan for the future shape of the Tibetan economy. The priority from Peking is to produce foodstuffs for the Chinese settlers moving into Tibet,' says Tim Nunn, General Secretary of the Tibet Support Group (UK). 'The EU should have ensured that the Tibetans chose their own methods for the development of modern Tibet without it being imposed by the Chinese with EU money.'

**Seminar Urges Protection of Environment, Resources**  
*HK2012124394 Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service*  
*in Chinese 2129 GMT 12 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Nanjing, 13 Feb (XINHUA)—The Environmental and Resources Protection Committee of the National People's Congress [NPC] held a forum on environmental and resources protection in Zhangjiagang City, Jiangsu Province from 10 to 13 December.

Present at the forum were comrades in charge of people's congresses of all 30 provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the central government, as well as officials in charge of the relevant departments of the State Council. Comrade Wang Bingqian, vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, attended and addressed the forum.

Over the past year, people's congresses at all levels have done a great deal of work in legislation for and supervision of



environmental and resources protection and 13 provincial and municipal people's congresses have set up their own environmental and resources protection committees or urban construction and environmental protection committees.

In his speech, Wang Bingqian pointed out that strengthening environmental and resource protection is necessary for the building of socialism with Chinese characteristics and is fully in the interests of the sustained, rapid, and healthy development of the national economy. As far as the relationship between the environment and development is concerned, we must not follow the old path of "dealing with pollution only after it has happened" and blindly seeking growth at the expense of the environment, nor should we lay stress solely on environmental and resource protection while ignoring the need for development. The only correct way is to ensure a coordinated development of the environment and the economy, persistently protect the environment amid development, and promote sustained economic growth through environmental protection.

Wang Bingqian also noted that for a period in the future, it is an important aim of environmental protection-related legislation to develop a legal framework for environmental protection which is suited to the socialist market economy and to put environmental and resource protection on a legal basis. During its term of office, the current NPC Standing Committee will formulate or revise 17 laws concerning environmental and resource protection. Meanwhile, local people's congresses should speed up their pace as well in formulating and revising corresponding local laws and regulations related to environmental and resource protection in light of local conditions. At the same time, it is necessary to continue to step up the enforcement of environmental protection laws and ordinances, as well as the supervision of related operations, and to attach equal importance to legislation on the one hand and law enforcement and supervision on the other.

Participants in the forum discussed the tasks to be accomplished by the NPC next year regarding environmental and resource protection.

During the forum, Qu Geping, chairman of the NPC environmental and resources protection committee, gave a report entitled "Seize the Opportunity, Take the Challenges, and Do a Solid Job of Environmental and Resource Protection Within the NPC's Capacity."

#### **Guangdong 'Hotline' Program Airs Environmental Concerns**

*HK2012030294 Guangzhou Guangdong People's Radio Network in Mandarin 1030 GMT 9 Dec 94*

[FBIS Editorial Report] Hong Kong Bureau on Friday 9 December monitored the "Today's Hotline" program, a listener call-in show carried daily on Guangzhou Guangdong People's Radio Network in Mandarin at 1035-1200 GMT. Reception ranged from fair to very poor. The following is a summary of the program.

1. 1038 GMT—The program opens with a brief introduction by the program host Wen Tao. The discussion of the day focuses on a report carried on page two of the 9 December issue of YANGCHENG WANBAO by reporter Xu Tingfei and correspondents Zhang Juzhen and Ni Jing. The article reported on the findings of a public opinion poll on Guangzhou's environmental quality and urban management, jointly conducted by the Guangzhou Economic and Social Development Research Center and the Guangzhou City Construction Committee last November. More than 60 percent of the interviewees were confident that Guangzhou would become a modern international metropolis, but most were dissatisfied with the present urban environment quality and management standard. The opinions were collected through questionnaires.
2. 1044 GMT—A Mr. Wang who has come from Shenzhen to Guangzhou talks about his impressions of the city. He feels that streets in Guangzhou are quite messy and that the city is less covered by greenery than Shenzhen. He says he is quite disappointed in Guangzhou in terms of environmental quality and municipal management.
3. 1045 GMT—A Mr. Qin says he saw a child vomiting in a street near the Guangdong Television Broadcasting Station and that a woman accompanying the child used a paper bag to contain the vomit, thus avoiding dirtying the sidewalk. Mr. Qin praises the woman for her concern for public sanitation.
4. 1046 GMT—A Mr. Zhang says he believes the findings of the public opinion poll basically conform to reality. He says Guangzhou is still far from the standard of an international metropolis, with poor municipal management and sanitation conditions, insufficient urban neighborhood facilities, and backward urban planning.
5. 1049 GMT—A Mr. Li says Guangzhou has a poor living environment, being very dusty because of scarce vegetation.
6. 1051 GMT—A Mr. Chen complains that construction on the underground railway project produce great noise even late at night, which is a nuisance. He also complains that Guangzhou citizens' educational level is not high enough for the city to qualify as an international metropolis.
7. 1053 GMT—A Mr. Yang calls in to complain about the filthiness of the streets of Guangzhou, especially at marketplaces, where garbage and garbage cans are left everywhere unattended.
8. 1055 GMT—A Mr. Gu says public security is better in Guangzhou than in some other Guangdong counties and cities, such as Shantou and other coastal counties and cities. But he says that Guangzhou people are not very nice, as he once saw people in streets being indifferent to robbery and showing no intention of helping the victims.
9. 1100 GMT—Brief newscast.

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10. 1104 GMT—Commercial break.
11. 1108 GMT—The program host again gives a brief summary of the findings of the opinion poll.
12. 1109 GMT—A Miss Lin calls in to object to the opinion of the previous caller, Mr. Gu. She says that according to her personal experience, Shantou is not bad in terms of public security.
13. 1111 GMT—A Ms. He complains that vendors' stands and stalls, which can be seen everywhere in Guangzhou, occupy too much space on the sidewalk and even extend to the street, affecting the smooth flow of traffic. She suspects that there are some dealings between the street peddlers and the police who tolerate such practices. She also complains about insufficient vegetation and arbitrary felling of trees in urban areas.
14. 1116 GMT—A Mr. Liu suggests that sprinkling trucks be used to clean streets regularly, that all vehicles entering Guangzhou be cleaned at highway outlets, that environmental conditions around construction sites be kept under control, and that efforts be made to publicize the importance of environmental protection.
15. 1121 GMT—A Miss Wang complains that construction projects in Guangzhou do not comply with urban planning.
16. 1124 GMT—A Mr. Li proposes setting up a hotline to police and installing more report-to-police telephone booths in streets.
17. 1125 GMT—A Ms. Li complains that public security conditions at the Guangzhou Railway Station are terrible. She says she once found herself helpless when robbed there.
18. 1126 GMT—A Mr. He complains that there are many pickpockets on buses and in cinemas.
19. 1128 GMT—A Ms. Huang complains about the poor quality of public housing.
20. 1130 GMT—Brief newscast.
21. 1136 GMT—Commercial break.
22. 1140 GMT—A Mr. Wang complains that the management fee in the condominium where he lives has been drastically and suddenly raised.
23. 1145 GMT—A Mr. Han complains that sanitary conditions in his neighborhood are terrible; there is plenty of garbage, and scavengers have been doing a lousy job.
24. 1147 GMT—A Mr. Zhang compares Guangzhou with Beijing, praising Beijing for its success in the tree-planting drive. He also complains about the inappropriate selection of sites for golf courses and the harmful environmental impact of this kind of project.

25. 1151 GMT—A Mr. Huang complains about military trucks that violate traffic regulations.
26. 1154 GMT—A Ms. Yang says that serious decontrol of economic and social development has resulted in the deterioration of social order and environmental pollution.
27. 1157 GMT—Concluding summary by the program host.
28. 1158 GMT—Music.

#### **Jiang Chunyun Urges Officials To Emphasize Afforestation**

*OW2012170594 Beijing XINHUA in English  
1645 GMT 20 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, December 20 (XINHUA)—A top Chinese official urged all local forestry officials to put more stresses on afforestation, saying it is of vital importance to the protection of grain production.

Jiang Chunyun, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), said at a national working conference on forestry today that all local officials should make utmost efforts so that China's forestry may be improved to a considerable degree by the year 2 000.

"Afforestation in the coming six years, to a large degree, will be of vital importance to the resistance of various natural disasters, the protection of water conservancy projects and to the increase of grain to another 50 billion kilograms," he said.

The central government has reiterated the importance of agriculture, which also includes forestry, he said.

He urged local forestry officials to quicken their steps of afforestation and grow more high-quality forests.

#### **Jiangxi Takes Measures To Control Soil Erosion**

*OW2212040094 Beijing XINHUA in English  
0146 GMT 22 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nanchang, December 22 (XINHUA)—Xingguo County in East China's Jiangxi Province, which suffered from severe soil erosion for decades, has made marked progress in conserving water and soil in recent years.

Known as the "desert in the south", the county has been listed as one of the eight key areas in the country for the improvement of soil erosion.

About 1.9 million ha of land, or 84 percent of the total area of farmland in the county, used to suffer from soil erosion.

The local government launched a soil-improvement campaign in 1982. A total of 36 million laborers have been organized to plant trees and build water-control projects on barren hills and land over the past 12 years.

To date, 139,000 ha of land has been afforested and 120,000 ha of eroded land, or 64 percent of the county's total area, have been brought under control.

The soil-improvement campaign has slowed the rise of river beds. The river beds in the county rose at an annual average of four cm to seven cm in the past as a result soil erosion. But in recent years this rate has been slowed markedly.

Meanwhile, the ecological environment has been improved substantially. The vegetation coverage has climbed to 64.5 percent, compared with only 28 percent ten years ago. The forested area has increased from 34,000 ha to 210,000 ha.

The soil improvement drive has boosted local economic growth and improved the people's living standards. Local farmers reclaimed large tracts of land to plant fruit trees and industrial crops.

The county's gross agricultural and industrial output value for this year increased 2.74-fold over the 1982 figure. The annual net income of local farmers has risen by six times, to 889 yuan.

Now the local government is planning to grow 80,000 ha of industrial crops, 40,000 ha of tea-oil trees and 10,000 ha of fruit trees by the end of this century.

To reach the goal, the county government has set out a series of preferential policies to encourage farmers to grow more trees and build a service network for the spread of modern agro-techniques and improved strains, and for other services. Those who open up barren hills will be provided with low-interest government loans, production materials and technology.

So far, 600 farm households have signed contracts with local governments on cultivation of eroded areas. Most of these households have yielded an average of 10,000 yuan of net profit. The annual income of some households has topped 20,000 yuan.

## REGIONAL AFFAIRS

### **Australia, Japan Sign Agreement To Limit Tuna Fishing**

*BK2112023994 Melbourne Radio Australia in English  
0100 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia has introduced tighter management controls on Japanese tuna fishing in Australian waters. Australian and Japanese officials have signed a new agreement in Melbourne. Under the new agreement, only 250 Japanese longline fishing boats will be permitted to fish in Australian waters in 1995. Japanese longline fishing off Australia's east coast will also be limited, with only 55 boats allowed to operate during each four-month period. Japanese tuna companies will pay Australia an access fee of \$4.2 million [Australian dollars] for the 1995 season.

## AUSTRALIA

### **Regret Expressed at Japan's Decision To Continue Whaling**

*BK2312071594 Melbourne Radio Australia in English  
0500 GMT 23 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Australian Government has expressed regret at a decision by Japan to continue killing whales in the south ocean whale sanctuary. In a joint statement, Federal Environment Minister John Faulkner and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs Bob McMullan say they strongly disagree with the killings being conducted under a research program. The ministers say the International Whaling Commission has been advised by Japan that it has issued a permit authorizing the killing of up to 30 minke whales in Antarctic water south of Australia and New Zealand. The ministers acknowledge the decision to kill whales for supposedly scientific purposes is within the letter of a 1946 convention that argue that it subverts the intention of a moratorium on commercial whaling.

## CAMBODIA

### **Government Bans Logging Nationwide From End of December**

*BK3012051394 Phnom Penh AKP in French  
0400 GMT 30 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Phnom Penh 30 Dec (AKP)—The Royal Government of Cambodia recently banned for good from 31 December logging by all private companies not recognized by the government.

This measure was adopted at an interministerial meeting on 26 December chaired by Samdech Hun Sen, second prime minister of the Royal Government.

"However, the export of logs already sawn is authorized until 30 April 1995" says the communique made public at the end of the meeting. These effective measures are aimed at ending the "illegal and anarchic" logging in the country.

The communique says "The Royal Government therefore hands over to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery the administration of forest exploitation. The ministry can thus stop illegal logging and, if necessary, have the support of competent authorities to have its decisions respected."

The communique adds that "The Royal Government authorizes the export of logs only by companies that have invested capital in logging in Cambodia."

### **Agriculture Minister To Seek Cooperation Against Logging**

*BK2912112294 Bangkok SIAM POST in Thai  
29 Dec 94 pp 1, 8*

[FBIS Translated Text] Phnom Penh—Cambodian Agriculture Minister Tav Senghua on 28 December said that his government will ask for cooperation from the Thai Government in the Cambodian ban against tree cutting, which will start from 1 January, and its timber export ban, which will begin on 1 May, to conserve the environment and prevent illegal logging.

Cambodian Defense Minister Tie Banh earlier asserted that most of the illegal logging was done by the Khmer Rouge, who use the revenue from logging and gem mining operations to support its struggle against the Cambodian Government.

The Cambodian defense minister accused Thailand earlier this month and said that Thailand would not assist the Cambodian attempt to stop the major illegal Khmer Rouge trading activities in Pailin. He said local Thai military commanders condoned the trade.

According to the Cambodian agriculture minister, a Cambodian delegation will visit Thailand in early 1995 to discuss the above issue.

Meanwhile, Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan reiterated that due to concern for the safety of Thai people, the government sees no reason to reopen An Ma pass, noting that the Interior, Foreign, and Defense Ministries concurred with this view.

He said although businessmen wanted the pass reopened, interest of the majority, particularly security, has to be taken into consideration.

He said the Cambodian and Thai Governments have been discussing compensation for the Thais killed in Cambodia.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai told newsmen yesterday that a demand has been made to Cambodia for compensation for the deaths of some 20 Thais killed while working in Cambodia. The Thai private sector has been coordinating with the Foreign Ministry to ask the Cambodian Government to pay compensation for the cancellation of the Thai airlines concessions.



## Over 2,000 Cubic Meters of New Logs Seized in Koh Kong

BK2812132694 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 28 Dec 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Samrit Sar]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Commission To Investigate and Examine the Problem of Unprocessed and Processed Timber led by Nhim Vanda, special envoy of the two prime ministers and cochairman of the commission, seized three barges loaded with over 2,000 cubic meters of newly felled logs in Thmar Bang District in Koh Kong Province on 25 December. A member of the commission told REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA. Only some of these logs are marked with the Forestry Department's stamp.

The barges belong to two companies which have both been issued export licenses.

The first barge, loaded with 300 newly cut logs amounting to about 745 cubic meters, is owned by the Chhun Hong Company. It was seized at Santhoeng Praot village in Thmar Bang District in Koh Kong Province.

The other two barges, loaded with a total number of 745 newly felled logs amounting to about 1,752 cubic meters, belong to the Sotramec Company. The latter had bought the logs with an export license from the Yin Meng Company.

This is the second time that the government has discovered that new logs are being cut and that licenses for the export of old logs are being used to ship out the new ones. [passage omitted]

## Interministerial Meeting Moves To Restrict Fishing, Logging

BK2712144294 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 27 Dec 94

["Press Communique" issued by the office of the Royal Government of Cambodia spokesman in Phnom Penh on 27 December]

[FBIS Translated Text] An interministerial meeting was held at 1500 on 26 December 1994 at the Council of Ministers Office under the chairmanship of Samdech Hun Sen, second prime minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC], to examine and discuss reports presented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries on the situation concerning fishing and logging activities in the country. After a meticulous discussion and exchange of ideas, the meeting made the following decisions:

The RGC will enact measures to prevent unauthorized fishing activities that endanger aquatic resources. In addition, the government has ordered the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries to cooperate with the Defense Ministry, the General Staff of the Khmer Royal Armed Forces, and local police forces to

step up strict control and protection of fishing lots and to arm militiamen in the vicinity of the fishing lots around Tonle Sap lake and other areas across the Kingdom of Cambodia. The ministry was asked to classify fishing lots according to their degree of importance with a view to protecting the sources of fish and making protection and control more effective.

In order to eradicate the unauthorized exploitation of logs and protect the Kingdom of Cambodia's environment, the RGC has decided:

1. To abolish all subdecrees and decisions concerning the Commission to Investigate and Examine the Problem of Unprocessed and Processed Timber;
2. To transfer the task of investigating, examining, and cracking down on the unauthorized exploitation of logs to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries; if necessary, the ministry is authorized to request cooperation and support from various competent institutions to suppress these unauthorized activities;
3. To end all log exploitation carried out by various companies as of 31 December 1994;
4. To allow authorized logs exports only until 30 April 1995;
5. To ban the export of unprocessed and processed timber collected from unauthorized purchases, except timber for which (?export licenses) have been issued. The RGC will authorize only legal investment companies to export processed timber, and the timber should come from authorized exploitation, not unauthorized purchases. All illegally exported timber will be seized and put up for auction.

The RGC has ordered the Agriculture Ministry to conduct a study on taxing forest products, determine the feasibility of levying taxes annually, and define Cambodia's forested areas clearly for future exploitation.

The meeting ended at 1900 amid an atmosphere of unity and a high sense of responsibility.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 27 December 1994

## Ranariddh Reaffirms Nationwide Logging Ban in 1995

BK2512140294 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 25 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] On 23 December at his residence, Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh reaffirmed that in 1995, the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC] will order the ban on logging throughout the country and those violating the order will be prosecuted according to the law. The prince pointed out that the revenue from the present logging and the sale at international prices of the logs seized from offenders by the state is insignificant.

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It is worth noting that Cambodia has been facing a serious problem of forest destruction and that the RGC has tried to gradually end this problem with the creation of the Commission to Investigate and Examine the Problem of Unprocessed and Processed Timber, cochaired by Tav Senghuo and Nhim Vanda.

Dr. Mok Maret, minister of environmental management, said at a news conference on 20 December that the Khmer Rouge has felled logs and sold them to merchants and irresponsible army personnel. The ministry has assessed that Cambodia's forests, which covered 70 percent of the country in the 1960's, have now been reduced to only 40 percent.

First Prime Minister Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh did not elaborate on any concrete measures to be taken to enforce the ban.

## JAPAN

### Panel Advocates Environmental 'Strategic Headquarters'

OW2612061794 Tokyo KYODO in English  
0534 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Dec. 26 KYODO—An advisory group to Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said Monday [26 December] it will recommend that the government set up a "strategic research headquarters" to protect the global environment.

The panel said it would call on Murayama to establish the body by "gathering all the country's intelligence" in order to create "the philosophy and ethics needed to protect the global environment in the next century," panel members said.

It will submit its recommendations to Murayama in January, they said.

### Money Earmarked To Save Global Environment

OW2612123894 Tokyo KYODO in English  
1218 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Dec. 26 KYODO—Japan has earmarked a total of 578.1 billion yen in the fiscal 1995 draft budget for global environmental conservation, up 5.5 percent from fiscal 1994, the Environment Agency said Monday [26 December].

The money allocated for 17 ministries and government agencies is part of the fiscal 1995 draft budget totaling nearly 71 trillion yen, which was endorsed by the government Sunday.

Of the 578.1 billion yen, 10.3 billion yen is official overseas development assistance in the field of environment protection, up 18.4 percent from fiscal 1994, the agency said.

In comparison, the amount of overall development assistance in the 1995 budget is 1.1 trillion yen, up 4.0 percent.

Nearly half the 578.1 billion yen is for the Science and Technology Agency to promote nuclear power. Also, 427.4 billion yen was allocated for measures to prevent global warming, up 4.0 percent from the previous fiscal year, the agency said.

Another 14.2 billion yen was earmarked to tackle acid rain, 7.1 billion yen to prevent the destruction of rain forests, 4.4 billion yen for measures against the destruction of the ozone layer, 1.7 billion yen to protect wild life and 100 million yen against across-the-border transportation of harmful substances, the agency said.

### Reopener—Cabinet Adopts Basic Environment Plan

OW1612053894 Tokyo KYODO in English  
0518 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Dec. 16 KYODO—Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said the plan enables the nation to pass on "the benefits of the natural environment" for future generations.

"I am convinced that to aim for the creation of a nation which is environmentally- and people-friendly by protecting and handing on to our grandchildren's generation an environment in which people live with peace of mind is one of the fundamentals of the state," Murayama said.

"What's more, I think these things will become the basis for the role which we must perform in the international community."

### Government Approves Plan on Alternative Energy Sources

OW1612033994 Tokyo KYODO in English  
0310 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Dec. 16 KYODO—The Japanese Government approved Friday [16 December] a plan to dramatically raise the proportion of alternative energy sources to oil and coal in total needs to 3 percent by 2010, officials said.

The scheme is designed to reduce the nation's heavy dependence on imported oil and coal in energy consumption and meet Japan's pledge to keep carbon dioxide emissions at the 1990 level beyond the year 2000, they said.

Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, speaking at a cabinet meeting on energy affairs, voiced determination to achieve the goal in close cooperation with private concerns, the officials said.

"As a nation which has undergone the oil crises, Japan faces the urgent task of expanding the use of new energy sources so as to secure sources of energy and keep the promise to prevent global warming," Murayama told the meeting.

The energy plan features a proposal that the use of solar power be expanded to the equivalent of 4.6 million kilowatts by 2010, about 1,200 times the current level.

Also included in the plan are expansion of power generation from waste to 4 million kilowatts, about eight times the current level.

It also calls for promoting the use of automobiles running on "clean energy" such as electricity and natural gas to raise the volume of energy such automobiles consume to the equivalent of 3.24 million kiloliters of oil, about 1,080 times the current level.

### **Cabinet Adopts Basic Environment Plan for Next Century**

*OW1612031594 Tokyo KYODO in English  
0227 GMT 16 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Dec. 16 KYODO—The cabinet on Friday [16 December] adopted a protection plan for the nation's environment that incorporates the concepts of recycling, coexistence with nature, and the participation of all groups in the nation to protect the environment.

The basic environment plan, which will form the basis for the nation's environmental protection and preservation of Japan's natural heritage through 2010, questions current modes of mass production and consumption and calls for their replacement with sustainable production and consumption patterns.

It proposes that Japan become a waste-free society with companies taking back wrapping and containers for reuse.

But the plan stops short of mandating environmental assessments, stating only that consideration should be given to the possibility of legislating them.

It also recommends consideration be given to the introduction of an environmental tax.

However, the plan does not include the specific numerical targets nongovernmental organizations had sought as indicators of environmental improvement and preservation.

Instead, it recommends development of a comprehensive system for measuring the extent of attainment of long-term environmental goals and says that such a system could be incorporated into the plan during its revision five years from now.

The plan is based on the Basic Environment Law, which came into effect in November 1993.

The Central Environment Council, a body set up by then Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa in January, presented the plan to Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama on Dec. 9.

### **Ministry Approves Budget for City, Environment Conference**

*OW2012081194 Tokyo KYODO in English  
0759 GMT 20 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO—The Finance Ministry has approved some 40 million yen for

an international conference in Yokohama on the theme of "sustainable cities" and their interaction with the environment in 1995, the Environment Agency said Tuesday [20 December].

The conference, under the joint sponsorship of the agency and the Yokohama and Kawasaki Municipal Governments, will discuss problems encountered by cities in attempting to harmonize with the environment. The agency originally requested some 50 million yen for the conference.

The conference, which will be held for four days in early November, is designed to follow up on the achievements made in environmental preservation internationally since the 1992 United Nations-sponsored Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The sustainability of economic development while preserving the environment was the main theme of that conference. Delegates will look at the problems caused by population concentration in cities, how to achieve sustainability, and the initiatives local governments can take. About 1,000 delegates, including representatives of some 150 local governments and nongovernmental organizations from Japan and overseas, will take part.

### **Ministry To Seek Substitute for Ozone-Damaging Chemical**

*OW3012083394 Tokyo KYODO in English  
0813 GMT 30 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Dec. 30 KYODO—The farm ministry plans to launch in fiscal 1995, beginning April 1, a three-year project to develop a substitute for methyl bromide, an ozone-damaging chemical used in insecticides, ministry officials said Friday [30 December].

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries earmarked a budget of 75 million yen for the first year of studies to be carried out jointly with private sector researchers, the officials said.

Methyl bromide, a colorless, poisonous gas widely used in farming and quarantines, is designated under the Montreal protocol, signed in 1987 as a chemical that is damaging to the ozone layer.

Starting in January 1995, signatories agreed to maintain the production and use of the chemical at the 1991 level.

The United States has announced it will halt the use of methyl bromide in 2001, and many other countries are moving toward stronger restrictions.

Under the project, the Japanese farm ministry plans to further examine the damage and effects of methyl bromide on farms and products. It will also seek development of no-chemical quarantine measures, ways to prevent the gas from spreading into the atmosphere and substitute chemicals, the officials said.



Japan uses about 100,000 tons of methyl bromide per year, about 14 percent of the world's annual consumption, and ranks second behind the largest user, North America, according to the officials.

## NORTH KOREA

### Commentary Condemns South's Selection of Nuclear Waste Site

SK2712113994 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1223 GMT 26 Dec 94

[Commentary by Kim Ho-sam: "Another Grave Unparalleled Crime by Nuclear Fanatics"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The traitor Kim Yong-sam, a vicious warmonger, committed another grave unparalleled crime before the whole nation.

According to a radio report from Seoul, the South Korean puppets have finally designated the nuclear waste storage site, which they have been withholding up to now.

According to reports, a meeting of the so-called committee for promotion of radioactive wastes management work was held on 22 December chaired by the new puppet prime minister, and a meeting of the so-called atomic energy committee was held under the chairmanship of the puppet deputy prime minister. At the meetings, the puppets decided to build a nuclear waste storage site in Kurop Island, Tokchok Myon, Ongjin County, Kyonggi Province, which is close to our side's area in the Military Demarcation Line.

This unjust act committed by the Kim Yong-sam group is another never-to-be-pardoned criminal maneuver aimed at inflicting nuclear calamities on all of our Korean people.

The South Korean people from all walks of life held gatherings and staged demonstrations in succession to demand immediate cancellation of this antinational decision made by the murderous Kim Yong-sam clique, and announced statements of protests. This is just by all means.

As everyone knows, because of the reckless nuclear development scheme of the Kim Yong-sam group, a large quantity of nuclear wastes have been generated today in South Korea.

According to reports, even by the South Korean nuclear energy yearbook, nuclear wastes dumped by the South Korean puppets for the past seven years from 1986 to 1992—solid nuclear waste alone, apart from liquid and gaseous nuclear wastes—amounts to 2,934 drums.

Since the South Korean puppets carelessly dumped nuclear wastes in all places in the past, residents in many areas in South Korea, including North Kyongsang Province, South Cholla Province, and South Chungchong Province, protested to the puppets. This is a fact well known to all.

As is known to all, because of its radioactivity, nuclear waste causes irretrievable impact on organisms. Because of radioactive damage in South Korea today, a large number of fishes have been found dead, deformed children have been born, and women have become sterile.

Not satisfied with such a grave crime committed against South Korean people, the Kim Yong-sam group is scheming to commit this crime even against the people in the Northern half of the Republic.

It is as clear as fire that if the nuclear waste storage site is built in Kurop Island, not only the mountain and surrounding seas will be (?contaminated), but also marine resources including breeding of fishes and marine products, such as laver and sea weed, on the sea in our side, which is linked to the site, will be affected.

Indeed, we cannot but view the Kim Yong-sam ring's attempt to build the nuclear waste storage facility on Kurop Island as the puppets' new grave provocation against our Republic. Our people can never sit back and overlook the Kim Yong-sam ring's reckless and criminal maneuver to inflict a nuclear calamity on the entire Korean nation. We gravely view their (?maneuvers) and [passage indistinct]. Our people will never tolerate, but will liquidate without fail the crime, which will curse a thousand generations, committed by the Kim Yong-sam ring, which is attempting to inflict nuclear calamity on the sea, not content with giving the entire South Korean land to the imperialists for use as a nuclear forward base.

The Kim Yong-sam ring should ponder over the consequences to be brought about to the entire nation by their actions. The London (?declaration) adopted in England in December 1993, said that even officially recognized districts where nuclear wastes can be dumped into deep seas after being firmly packed to prevent leakage of radiation, is not safe, and prohibited such disposition. In other words, the (?primary) waste should never be disposed in the sea in any case.

The Kim Yong-sam ring's act more clearly shows the rascals are villains without basic conscience of mankind, and are matchless hooligans who even disregard international law. In fact, even previous military dictators did not dare to build nuclear waste storage sites near our Republic, but the traitor Kim Yong-sam did it without hesitation. This irrefutably explains that the rascal is a traitor far worse than the previous dictators.

We sternly denounce the Kim Yong-sam ring's maneuver to build a nuclear waste storage site on Kurop Island of Tokchok-myon, Ongjin County, Kyonggi Province in the name of all the Korean people and [passage indistinct] such a maneuver. If the Kim Yong-sam ring proceeds with the construction of the nuclear waste storage despite our warnings, it will be held totally responsible for all the consequences arising therefrom.



**Anti-Nuclear Committee Criticizes ROK Waste Dump Plans***SK2912035294 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 28 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Korean Anti-Nuclear Peace Committee issued the following statement denouncing and rejecting the maneuvers of the South Korean puppet clique for building a nuclear waste dump near the coast of our side.

The statement of the Korean Anti-Nuclear Peace Committee:

The South Korean puppet clique is maneuvering these days to build a nuclear waste dump on Kurop Island in Tokchok-myon, Ongjin County, Kyonggi Province south of the Ongjin peninsula near the territory of our side. At the meetings of the Radioactive Waste Management Promotion Committee and the Atomic Energy Committee, which the puppet prime minister and deputy prime minister attended on 22 December, they decided that Kurop Island will be the site of a nuclear waste dump and officially announced it. That the South Korean puppets decided to dump nuclear waste on an island near the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] is another new grave provocation against us. As has already been known, in South Korea, Ulchin County, North Kyongsang Province; Yangsan County, South Kyongsang Province; Changhung County, South Cholla Province; and Anmyondo, South Chungchong Province were discussed as the possible site of a nuclear waste dump. However, they ran against strong opposition from the residents of the relevant areas, and the decision remained undecided for as long as six years. Because of the criminal nuclear development maneuvers of the South Korean puppets, an irrevocably grave situation is created in South Korea today.

According to an official announcement of the South Korean authorities, nuclear power stations produce large quantities of nuclear waste every year, but they are at a loss on how to dispose of it with no dumping ground.

Much perplexed, the puppet is seeking a way out in building a nuclear waste dump near the coast of our side.

We consider that the South Korean puppets' decision to build the deadly nuclear waste dump near our side's coast is one more grave hostile act against us and a premeditated provocation to aggravate North-South confrontation.

Even the notorious military gangsters in the past dared not build a nuclear waste dump near our side but sought its site on the southern coast or an island far away from the MDL.

The traitor Kim Yong-sam, however, decided to build a nuclear waste dump near the coast of our side. This shows that he is a heinous traitor to the nation who runs more recklessly than the preceding military fascist dictators.

As is known, the South Korean puppet clique has long since promoted in secret the development of nuclear weapons and indiscreetly dumped the waste, devastating and contaminating the ground, the rivers and the sea of South Korea and reducing the whole of South Korea to a land of death.

It is widely known a fact that due to the contamination by nuclear waste in South Korea schools of fish died in the sea, the sea culture sites were destroyed, women gave birth to deformed babies and many people died of unknown diseases.

As if this nuclear disaster were not enough, the puppets are scheming to extend it to the northern half of the country and inflict nuclear scourge on the northern people. Is there any more heinous treachery to the nation?

The traitor Kim Yong-sam is a villain and nuclear war-maniac of the worst type without the blood of the nation and elementary human conscience.

The Korean Anti-Nuclear Peace Committee strongly denounces the Kim Yong-sam group's plan to build a nuclear waste dump near the coast of our side, branding it as an unpardonable criminal act to make the northern half a victim of nuclear waste.

The South Korean ruling bunch should immediately stop the anti-national crime of building a nuclear waste dump on Kurop Island. If the South Korean authorities do build a nuclear waste dump near the coast of our side, they will be held totally responsible for the grave consequences arising therefrom.

[Dated] 28 December 1994, Pyongyang.

**Environment Committee Denounces ROK Nuclear Waste Dump***SK3012152294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1506 GMT 30 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 30 (KCNA)—The State Environment Committee in a statement issued on December 30 pungently denounced the scheme of the Kim Yong-sam group to build a nuclear waste dump on an island near the coast of the northern half of Korea as an anti-national criminal act to reduce the whole land to a barren land polluted by nuclear material and make the whole nation in the North and the South a victim of nuclear radioactivity.

The South Korean puppets recently decided to build a nuclear waste dump on Kulop Island in Tokjok-myon, Ongjin County, Kyonggi Province, near the coast of the North side. They failed to designate the site of the dump for six years by the resistance of the people.

Noting that nuclear waste thrown into sea owing to the nuclear development in South Korea, is over 11,000 trillion bekquerel, which causes fatal damage to the ecology system of seas and the existence of human being, the statement continued:

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The international law strictly prohibits the random dumping of nuclear waste and setting up of dangerous nuclear facilities and nuclear waste dump anywhere. One wants.

The Kim Yong-sam group, however, are trying to build a nuclear waste dump strongly rejected by the South Korean people on an island near the northern half of Korea to do disastrous damage to the fellow countrymen. They are rude gangsters and villains who have no blood of the nation and elementary human conscience and who are ignorant of international law, aren't they?

The South Korean puppets must clearly see the steadfast stand of the North to thoroughly protect natural environment, valuing the lives of the fellow countrymen, and immediately give up the criminal plan for building a nuclear waste dump in the area near the northern half of Korea.

If the South Korean puppets build a nuclear waste dump on Kulop Island in defiance of the North's strong warning, they will have to bear full responsibility for all the consequences arising therefrom.

## SOUTH KOREA

### Speculation Continues Over Site for Nuclear Waste Disposal

SK1712023094 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English  
17 Dec 94 p 3

[Article by staff reporter Yu Chong-mo]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Speculations are prevailing over which area will be selected as the permanent storage site for nuclear waste as the deadline set by the government is rapidly approaching.

The government has repeatedly vowed to complete choosing a final site before the end of December.

However, the government has shown few signs of hurried movement in connection with the imminent announcement thus far.

It is learned that about 10 areas have been selected as the prospective storage sites for the nuclear waste stemming from domestic reactors.

The 10 prospective sites include Yangsan in South Kyongsang Province, Changhung and Yochon in South Cholla Province, Ulchin and Yongil in North Kyongsang Province, Kosong and Yangyang in Kangwon Province, Kulop Island, Pian Island and another unidentified island in the West Sea.

Among the 10 sites, however, Kulop Island, covering about 1.7 million sq. meters, is said to be most favored.

The touchy issue of radioactive waste storage has exploded into the public again lately after a local TV network reported Thursday [15 December] night that Kulop Island had been finally selected as the nuclear storage dump site.

The Radioactive Waste Management & Planning Mission, an interministerial body headed by Vice Minister of Science and Technology Han Yong-song, immediately issued a statement denying the report.

The government has not decided on the issue yet, but is still conducting an in-depth screening of the prospective sites, the statement said.

"Kulop Island has been found to possess one of the best geological conditions to function as a permanent nuclear waste dump," said the statement.

But the island, about 80 km west of Inchon, is too far from the mainland, making it difficult for the authorities to operate and manage a nuclear dump facility there, the statement said, adding that living conditions for the storage facility employees and their families would be very poor.

Despite the strong denial from the government, many experts still see Kulop Island as the most likely site.

Kulop Island, two-thirds the size of Seoul's Yoido, is composed of strong granite suitable for the building of an artificial cave and the compensation poses little problem as the island is inhabited by just 10 people in five households.

Seoul National University and dozens of private and state-run research labs, commissioned by the interministerial body, have participated in the screening of about 600 prospective sites—292 coastal areas, 210 islands and 90 abandoned mines—over the past several years.

The government plans to pour more than 50 billion won into the area finally selected as the storage site.

The government's repeated attempts to find a location for storing the domestic radioactive wastes have been thwarted each time in the face of strong resistance from local residents who fear their "backyards" might be contaminated.

The nation's nine nuclear reactors are churning out about 5,000 drums of radioactive waste annually.

At present, however, the waste is being temporarily stored in facilities inside nuclear power plants, raising safety and capacity problems.

South Korea may have to suspend its atomic power generation around 2001, should it fail to find a permanent storage site by the end of next year.

### Government To Implement Biological Diversity Pact 1 January

SK3112012894 Seoul YONHAP in English  
0007 GMT 31 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 31 (YONHAP)—The convention on biological diversity takes effect in South Korea as of Jan. 1, 90 days after the Seoul government handed its ratification to the UN secretary-general, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

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The convention requires each member state to establish long-term plans and programs to sustain and safeguard biological diversity and to implement them.

It requires prior approval from the supplier and bilateral agreement in using gene stocks.

South Korea signed the pact in June 1992.

### **Minister Announces Selection of Nuclear Waste Disposal Site**

SK2212053094 Seoul YONHAP in English  
0435 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 22 (YONHAP)—The government on Thursday announced that Kulyop island, located some 65 km southwest of Incheon in the West Sea, has been chosen as the nation's radioactive waste storage site, ending a years-long search marred by a series of strong protests from residents of possible sites.

The announcement was made by Science and Technology Minister Kim Si-chung following approval of the selection of the small island, inhabited by only 10 residents, as a radioactive waste storage site by two administrative agencies—the Radioactive Matter Management Facilities Project Promotion Committee and the Nuclear Energy Committee.

Minister Kim cited Kulyop island's excellent geological conditions—uncracking ground structure, deep waters conducive to port construction and a small population—as reasons for the selection.

Striving to find a radioactive waste storage site, the government has conducted feasibility studies of 210 islands, 292 coastal areas and 90 abandoned mines.

To improve living standards on Kulyop island and adjacent areas, the government plans to invest 5 billion won annually during the construction period of radioactive waste storage facilities and 3 billion won during the management of such facilities.

## **MALAYSIA**

### **Commentary Urges North To Fulfill Rio Pledges to South**

BK2912111794 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia  
in English 0810 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Malaysia became the first country to sign agreement to implement environmental conservation and rehabilitation projects with the Danish Fund for Environment and Development.

Credit should go to the Danish Government for providing the funding in response to request from developing countries to provide funds and not just words in conserving the global environment. The agreement will further complement Malaysia's strong action in environment conservation.

It is noteworthy that the pact is the first concrete action taken since the commitment made at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992. The Rio pledges have been singled out. Both the North and South are responsible for preserving the environment. The North took upon itself in identifying key areas that need financing. But two years after that it has yet to come up with sufficient funds. There have been modest contributions from some agencies, but they have been a far cry from the pronouncements made at the Rio summit.

It is estimated that nearly U.S. \$154 billion is required to finance environmental conservation and sustainable development globally. Tax payers from the North, despite their rhetorics, are not willing to pay for the promotion of the environment. It is quite unrealistic to expect the South countries to waste the money for conserving the environment since most of them are poor and they need additional funds for economic growth. But the feeling being held by the North is that if the developing countries cut their forests, they have to replenish the stock; and if they pollute, then they have to bear the cost of pollution. However, when the Group of 77 Developing Countries called for changing production and consumption patterns to promote global sustainable development, it was considered highly controversial by the developed nations.

The Commission on Sustainable Development meeting was also vague about how the financing of environmental conservation could be arranged. It was also silent about straight forward transfers of wealth from the North to the South. Contrary to what has been promised at Rio, it appears that the developed countries are not willing to help pay developing countries to conserve the environment.

Unless there is an increased assistance, it will be difficult to translate the real summit into action. What irks the South is that the North is apt to using trade to enforce environmental conditionally in South. [sentence as heard] The South will find it difficult to penetrate northern markets unless it incorporates environment cost into its operations or changes its production processes.

To many, it appears that the North will eventually end up forcing the South countries to finance their own environmental conservation program. This is largely because the North is not willing to help pay for environmental conservation in the South as agreed upon in Rio. It is perhaps time the South put pressure on the North to keep a promise it made in Rio.

### **Commentary Says WTO Must Not Link Trade to Environment**

BK0301103395 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia  
in English 0810 GMT 3 Jan 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] With the new World Trade Organization, WTO, coming into effect yesterday, the issue of trade and environment will be near the top of its agenda.

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Indeed, some countries have stated that with the end of the Uruguay Round, the next phase in world trade negotiation should be the green round.

At first glance, it might appear that policy makers are concerned about reforming trade to make it more environmentally friendly. But there are strong doubts whether the WTO is the appropriate venue to sort out the issue. The reason is simple as the WTO, like the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, GATT, is likely to be controlled by a few Northern countries.

There is a danger. They may use the organization to define how the trade and environment issues should be handled. In the process, there is tendency to shift the cost and judgment away from themselves to the weaker Third World countries.

It is the increasing concern of many environmental groups about the adverse environmental effects of trade. As such, there was intense interest to finding international mechanism to discuss and resolve trade and environment issues. But what is worrying is that the preparatory committee of the WTO has adopted a work program on trade and environment. This obvious last smack of linking trade with environment is much to the deterrent of developing nations.

The WTO has no jurisdiction to handle such an issue. Moreover, toward the closing phase of the Uruguay Round of discussions, negotiations were dominated by a few major countries. The majority of the countries have to accept the decisions and deals arrived at by these few. There is an imbalance development. It will most likely legitimize trade weapons which the North can use against South and the weak.

Weaker economies might be unfairly subjected to undertake a disproportionately large share of the adjustment burden to safeguard environment under the threat of the trade penalty and sanctions. There is also the danger of extending the effect to new concepts, activities and areas under the control of WTO. This would bring issues under national jurisdiction into international control. For instance, the issue on intellectual property rights was brought before GATT by calling it trade-related. The motive was clear. It was not to liberalize trade but to protect the monopoly control of the giant transnational companies over technology. This was done at the expense of South countries. Trade weapons used the name of protecting the environment would only reduce the competitiveness of products and services of developing countries. It is thus, inadvisable to give the WTO more power as an agency that links trade to environmental standards.

Different countries have different natural resource endowment, varying levels of pollution and capacities and development. Therefore, the idea of uniform

approach to solving the environmental problems through an international trade agency is misplaced. They should be resisted if the WTO is to play its role fairly and for the good of all.

## NEW ZEALAND

### Foreigners Blocked From Fishing for Some Kinds of Tuna

*BK2812061094 Hong Kong AFP in English  
0339 GMT 28 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Wellington, Dec 28 (AFP)—New Zealand Wednesday has barred foreign boats from harvesting some species of tuna from its exclusive economic zone.

In a statement Fisheries Minister Doug Kidd said foreign boats would no longer be able to fish for bigeye and yellowfin tuna while the number of foreign boats licensed to take southern bluefin tuna would be halved to five, and those might be excluded altogether next year.

The ban affects mainly Japanese boats.

Large tuna can be worth tens of thousands of dollars on the Japanese market for use as sashimi. Tuna profits are usually so substantial that the catch is flown to customers, mainly in Asia.

Kidd said it was a deliberate policy to exclude foreign boats in order to allow New Zealand companies to take over.

He said New Zealand fishermen have responded to the challenge he put before them to take over the fishery.

## PHILIPPINES

### Ramos Reaffirms Plutonium Shipment Passage Prohibited

*BK2112132194 Quezon City PTV-4 Television Network  
in Tagalog 1000 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ramos today ordered the Departments of Interior and Local Government, Environment and Natural Resources, and National Defense to take preventive measures to bar entry into Philippine waters of a vessel carrying plutonium from France en route to Japan.

[Begin Ramos recording in English]

**Ramos:** I have instructed the Department of National Defense, the Department of Interior and Local Government, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to make sure that this reported plan to transport plutonium between France en route to Japan should not be allowed in Philippine seas. [end recording]



## TAIWAN

**Special Conservation Police Force Planned**

OW2212101994 Taipei CNA in English  
0809 GMT 22 Dec 94

[By Lilian Wu]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Taipei, Dec. 22 (CNA)—The Council of Agriculture (COA) and the National Police Administration tentatively agreed Thursday [22 December] that a special conservation police force will be set up next July.

The police force was proposed in the wake of international criticism of Taiwan's alleged lax crackdowns on the illegal wildlife trade.

Although Taiwan has a strong Wildlife Conservation Law and other related regulations, it lacks a special force to implement the regulations.

COA vice chairman Ling Shiang-nung said that protection of Taiwan's environment has become a top priority. To better enforce conservation regulations, he said, the COA asked director-general Lu Yu-chun of the National Police Administration to form a special police force.

He said that the special police force will boast around 200-250 officers and will be formed under the National Police Administration. The officers will be selected from among the current force and undergo special training.

Ling also said that the conservation police force will target violators of the Wildlife Conservation Law, especially multi-national wildlife smuggling rings.

## THAILAND

**Confirmation of Phnom Penh Logging Ban 'Not Received'**

BK3112091994 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English  
31 Dec 94 p 10 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand has not yet received official confirmation from Cambodia of its decision to ban logging from January 1, according to Foreign Ministry sources.

The sources pointed out that it was only news reports which quoted Cambodian Agriculture Minister Tav Senghuo as saying that the move followed an inter-ministerial meeting on Dec 26 presided over by Second Prime Minister Hun Sen.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is checking the report, but so far the only thing we've heard is what we read in the newspapers," one of the sources said.

The Cambodian government reportedly said it was imposing the ban on the chopping down of new trees and on the export of logs in order to put a stop to "anarchic" and illegal logging.

The Burapha Task Force Commander Maj-Gen [Major General] Niphon Pharannit yesterday expressed sympathy for Thai private sector companies, which have invested more than two billion baht in logging business in Cambodia.

About 15 companies have been granted permission to take logs out of Cambodia through 14 Thai checkpoints in Ubon Ratchathani, Sisaket, Buriram, Sa Kaeo, Trat and Chanthaburi provinces.

A Thai businessman who spoke on condition of anonymity said the logging companies might have to organize a joint meeting to look for measures to minimise losses.

He said his company already had a certain amount of felled logs which should not be affected by Cambodia's logging ban decision.

However, there remained the problem of the delay in the opening of border checkpoints, he said.

The Thai loggers had submitted a letter to the Thai Defence Ministry proposing to bring felled logs through a pass at Khlong Luk-Poi Pet checkpoint, but Interior Minister Sanan Khachonprasat was reported to be thinking about closing two checkpoints at Sa Kaeo.

Maj-Gen Niphon said he was concerned that the Khlong Luk-Poi Pet Bridge financed by the British government to mark Thai-Cambodian friendship, could be damaged if logs were transported.

"I think it's unfair to society because this checkpoint is only a temporary crossing for border trade," Maj-Gen Niphon said.

**Editorial Calls for Cleaner Energy Planning**

BK1812102294 Bangkok THE SUNDAY NATION  
in English 18 Dec 94 p A4

[Editorial: "Bt40 Billion Is the Price To Pay for Clean Energy"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Forty billion baht [Bt]. That's what it will cost Thailand over the next 25 years to revamp the lignite-burning power plants at Mae Mo in order for them to meet existing air quality standards, according to a recently concluded study.

What's more, local villagers who suffer from asthma will still have occasional difficulties breathing as a result of the plants' (reduced) emissions of sulphur dioxide gas. Tightening the standards to help these people, however, would cost an additional Bt20 billion.

And even if they were tightened, such standards would not be ideal. They measure the quality of air in the surrounding area, whereas limits should be set for the amount of sulphur dioxide actually coming out of the smokestacks themselves.

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Just because air pollution is dispersed far and wide doesn't mean it will have no impact. Another recent study, this one Asia-wide, indicates that acid rain—also caused by sulphur dioxide emissions—is slowly damaging at least a quarter of Thai forests and croplands in the northern, central and northeastern parts of the country.

Acid rain is difficult to see, and even more difficult to solve. Cleaning up Mae Mo will help a great deal, but there are plenty of other sources of sulphur dioxide: cars, ships, even power plants in China, whose emissions are blown down our way.

Emissions from Thailand are of course also blowing into other countries. The international nature of the acid rain problem has made it especially troublesome in Europe and North America. Asia is now forewarned. Can it head off the damage and disputes before they become serious?

Thai authorities must first of all accept that air pollution is now an international issue. And it is especially serious for Thailand because it appears our soils are especially vulnerable to acidification.

China is the main problem; it is heavily reliant on coal as a fuel source and accounts for two-thirds of Asia's total sulphur dioxide emissions. So far it has refused to install proper pollution control equipment.

Thailand should team up with all the other countries surrounding China who are also affected—from Japan to India—in order to lobby the Chinese government to clean up its act. At the same time, we can continue with our own clean-up efforts, which include reducing the sulphur content in gasoline and putting flu-gas desulphurization units (FGDs) on the Mae Mo plants.

The most worrisome new project is a massive complex of lignite-burning power plants—almost rivalling Mae Mo in size—to be built by a Thai company in Laos, about 100 kilometres from the northern Thai border. Since all the power will be exported to us, Thai authorities will have the final say as to whether the operation will be clean or not.

The Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (Egat) and the National Energy Policy Office (Nepo) must agree to pay a price for the imported electricity that will allow the power plants to be built with clean coal technology, even though this may raise the cost by 20-30 per cent. Better to pay now, than to pay more, later.

Within Thailand, we should also be turning toward cleaner energy sources, alternatives to problem-ridden nuclear power plants and hydro-electric dams that will tide us over until renewable energy solutions such as solar power become feasible.

Promoting energy efficiency, the cleanest and cheapest "source", is the most obvious choice. Natural gas—also clean and cheap, although it does contribute to the global warming—is our next best fuel option. But the authorities have been slow in procuring it. This is strange because gas is widely

available; we don't need to sell out the people of Burma by purchasing it from the oppressive Burmese government.

Finally, coal will still have to play an important role in Thailand's energy production. The coal which independent power producers (IPPs) are planning to import for their power plants should be cleaner—with a lower sulphur content—than lignite.

But we need to keep a close watch on the IPPs to make sure they don't try to increase their profits at the expense of our health. Setting emission standards at the source—that is, on the smokestacks—would help this monitoring process immensely.

Meanwhile, Egat's plans to expand the facilities around Mae Mo are up in the air, so to speak. It may go ahead with two new plants at Mae Kham, using a clean combustion technology known as fluidized bed. But the recent study on Mae Mo concluded that building eight new plants in the nearby Lampang valley would not be cost-effective if the necessary pollution control technology is also installed; building gas-fired plants elsewhere makes more sense.

This is a striking example of how development projects which look cheap at first glance suddenly become too expensive once the social and environmental costs are included.

Energy planners can no longer ignore such costs. Nor should they try to avoid them by building dirty projects in neighbouring countries hungry for investment. Laos, beware. Otherwise you, too, may be saddled with a 40-billion-baht bill one day.

#### **Denmark Provides Funds for Environmental Projects**

*BK2212103294 Bangkok THE NATION in English  
22 Dec 94 p A2*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Representatives from Denmark's Ministry of the Environment signed an agreement yesterday to provide the Thai government with Bt [baht] 275 million (US\$11 million) in aid to support environmental projects over the coming years.

The Danish Cooperation for Environment and Development (Danced) funds will be targeted at four main areas: the environment in urban areas, forestry, biodiversity and coastal zone management.

Much of the money will go to Thai government agencies in charge of planning, forestry and environmental management in order to develop strategies and to strengthen those institutions. Non-governmental organizations will receive some aid, as well.

Funds will also go toward the establishment of a regional training centre in Khao Yai National Park for training conservation area personnel; training staff to enforce the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, the creation of a national inventory of natural wetlands; and support to ratify and implement the Biodiversity Convention.

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The funds are being allocated as part of the Danish government's plan to provide aid totalling 0.5 per cent of its gross national product (GNP), or \$750 million (Bt18,750 million), by the year 2002 for environmental protection, disaster relief and help to refugees. This money will come in addition to the one per cent of GNP Denmark already allocates for overseas development aid.

"This is probably the first time a developed country has committed new and additional funds since the Rio (Earth Summit) conference."

Thailand and Malaysia are the major recipients of Danish funds in Southeast Asia, according to Carstensen. An additional \$15 million (Bt375 million) will be provided to Thailand next year, he said.

"We hope that this aid will have a regional impact," added Dr Jens Bjerregaard Christensen, vice director-general of Denmark's National Forest and Nature Agency. "Thailand and Malaysia are now facing many environmental problems due to rapid economic growth and they are leaders in Southeast Asia. So we would like to see them become models of environmental management for other developing countries in the region."

The agreement between Denmark and Thailand's Department of Technical Cooperation was signed in a ceremony held yesterday at the Royal Danish Embassy.

## VIETNAM

### Regional Meteo-Hydrological Station Established

*BK2912064094 Hanoi VNA in English  
0628 GMT 29 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Dec.29—A regional meteo-hydrological station for the northern central Vietnam has been inaugurated in Nghe An Province. This

is the sixth regional station in the country. Three more are scheduled to be built in the first quarter of next year.

This station is responsible for weather forecasts and air and water environment surveys in the three provinces of Thanh Hoa, Nghe An and Ha [word indistinct] which are inhabited by one tenth of the country's population, and frequently hit by natural calamities.

Besides the regional station, the three provinces house 55 meteo-hydrological posts which need to be upgraded in service of socio-economic development and national defence, especially the disaster preparedness programme in the region.

### Decline in Forested Area Reported

*BK2612082394 Hong Kong AFP in English  
0724 GMT 26 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi, Dec 26 (AFP)—Vietnam has lost 30 percent of its forested area over the past 51 years, through warfare and intensive farming, official figures published Monday showed.

The forestry ministry reported that the forested area was 13.5 million hectares (33.34 million acres) in 1943, which fell to 9.18 million hectares (22.6 million acres) in 1994.

Worst-hit areas are Lai Chau, Cao Bang and Lang Son, in northern Vietnam, and Nghe An and Gia Lai, in the centre, where hill tribes still practise slash-and-burn subsistence farming, the reports said.

Southern Vietnam has yet to recover from massive destruction caused by chemical agents dropped by the U.S. Air Force in the Vietnam War, seeking to defoliate jungle hiding places used by the Viet Cong guerrillas.

Vietnam has set a target of replanting 15 million hectares (37.05 million acres) of trees by the turn of the century. Western experts have warned of an ecological catastrophe—mud slides, erosion of top soil and flooding—if this is not carried out.

## BULGARIA

### Nuclear Radiation, Waste Depository Problems Viewed

AU1612130694 Sofia STANDART NEWS in Bulgarian  
12 Dec 94 p 3

[Staff report: "Kozloduy Nuclear Plant Exposed 224 Workers to Radiation in 20 Years"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At least 224 workers have been exposed to radiation in the 20 years of the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant's existence. This was revealed at the "Future of Nuclear Power Supply in Bulgaria" seminar, which ended on 11 December. The workers engaged in repairs are mostly threatened by radiation.

The experts are urgently seeking a permanent depository for the nuclear waste materials. The depository in Novi Khan is already useless and does not correspond to international safety requirements. Yanko Yankov, chief of the Committee on Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy, said that 22 different grounds throughout the country, where a national depository could be constructed, are being considered. It still has not been decided whether the processed fuel will be returned to Russia or kept in Bulgaria. France has also shown interest in receiving the uranium from the fuel.

The government must finally decide the fate of the Belene Nuclear Power Plant. Well-informed sources said that the problem is of a political character, and that there are no documents on whose basis the project has been suspended. So far the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant has produced more than 200 billion kilowatt/hours of electric power. Thus Bulgaria saved 600 million metric tons of coal.

The country will need new facilities by the year 2000. According to international agreements the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant's First and Second Reactors must be stopped in 1997, while the Third and Fourth Reactors—in 1998. The experts doubt this is possible. In November 1995 nuclear experts from all over the world will inspect our nuclear power plant.

## CZECH REPUBLIC

### Details of Czech-Russian Nuclear Energy Agreement Released

AU1612205494 Prague CTK in English  
1912 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 16 (CTK)—The agreement between the Governments of Russia and the Czech Republic on cooperation in the field of nuclear energy, which provoked sharp criticism from Greenpeace, was signed in Moscow on December 4 by deputy premier and Finance Minister Ivan Kocarnik and Russian deputy premier Yuriy Yarov.

The agreement was signed along with other documents at the end of the first session of the Czech-Russian inter-government commission for commercial-economic and scientific-technical cooperation.

Speaking at the time, Kocarnik said that the agreement was a comprehensive one which superseded various treaties in the field of nuclear cooperation from the times of Czechoslovak-Soviet contacts.

The text of the new agreement was not made public during the commission's sitting, and rumors concentrated on the participation of Russian experts in the completion of the nuclear plant at Temelin, south Bohemia, or supplies of new fuel rods for the Dukovany nuclear plant in south Moravia.

Russian Nuclear Energy Minister Viktor Mikhailov said at the time that the agreement had no provisions for the liquidation of nuclear waste on Russian territory.

This is a sensitive point for Russia. Greenpeace has already warned several times in the past that Russian territory was changing into an international nuclear dumping ground. Under pressure from environmental groups, the Russian Parliament took a stand against the Russo-Hungarian inter-state agreement in April. The agreement allowed for the processing of spent nuclear waste from Hungarian power stations in Russia—as does the Czech-Russian one.

Opponents of the Russo-Hungarian agreement, which has not yet been realized, protested against the possibility that Russia would become a store for Hungarian nuclear waste.

The Russo-Czech agreement relates to information exchanges and other cooperation in conceiving and bringing nuclear facilities into service, supplies of nuclear fuel for Czech power stations, the maintenance of these stations, cooperation in ensuring safety in the transportation of nuclear materials, and cooperation in the fields of radiation protection and nuclear safety.

According to reliable sources, the fifth article of the agreement deals with processing spent fuels. "When supplying nuclear fuels to the Czech Republic, the Russian side (on the request of the Czech side) will ensure the transference of spent nuclear fuel from Czech nuclear power stations for subsequent processing in Russian plants. Substances produced in processing, including plutonium and radioactive waste, will be returned to the Czech Republic in accordance with the legal norms of both states and under the conditions of the contracts laid out."

According to CTK sources, the agreement is in harmony with undertakings arising from the non-proliferation treaty and stresses that the substances involved "will not be used in the production of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or for achieving any kind of military objectives."

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For the whole time that the substances are on Czech soil or under the jurisdiction of the Czech Republic they will be under the control of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The Czech-Russian agreement assumes the possibility of the re-export of nuclear material which the Czech Republic will gain after the processing of the waste products, but "in the case of more than 20 percent

refined uranium, plutonium or heavy water," only with the written consent of Russia.

The agreement has a ten-year validity with the possibility for automatic extension by two years. The agreement is to come into force upon an exchange of notes confirming that the agreement has been approved in accordance with the two countries' legal frameworks.

## REGIONAL AFFAIRS

### Argentina, Paraguay Reach Agreement on Pilcomayo River

PY2312004294 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish  
2245 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Dec (TELAM)—Argentina and Paraguay have agreed to share the Pilcomayo River equitably. The two countries decided to carry out a number of joint projects in the lower Pilcomayo River zone.

"The purpose of the projects implemented by the two countries is to stop the silting process (filling of the water channel with sediments) and the consequent drying up of the river," the Foreign Ministry announced today.

The river control structures built by Argentina on the right bank of the river ended on 4 October, in accordance with the schedule, dimensions, and characteristics agreed upon with Paraguay.

As a result of the projects implemented by the two countries, it was possible to distribute the water to both nations equitably.

This act marked the successful end of the 1994 schedule of projects in the lower Pilcomayo River zone.

In order to attest to this satisfactory effort, on 16 December Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella and Paraguayan Foreign Minister Luis Maria Ramirez Boettner signed a document in Ouro Preto (Brazil) expressing "satisfaction" over the fulfillment of the Program of Approved Projects.

In the document the foreign ministers expressed their satisfaction "over having achieved an equitable distribution of the Pilcomayo River waters."

Both foreign ministers instructed their national commissions to "do their utmost" to build the Control System agreed upon by both countries, in order to ensure as soon as possible "a lasting solution" to the problem.

Di Tella and Ramirez Boettner stressed the importance of an early meeting of the Trinational Commission for the Pilcomayo River Basin Development, which also includes Bolivia.

## BARBADOS

### Minister Assures No Health Hazard Dumping Carcasses in Sea

FL2512210694 Bridgetown CANA in English  
1513 GMT 24 Dec 94

[All quotation marks as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec. 24, CANA—Following is the text of editorial in Saturday's SUN ON SATURDAY newspaper.

"The picture of discarded animal carcasses floating beside sea-bathers on the coasts of Barbados frightens.

This ugly picture was painted on the weekend by an expert who warned that a proposal to dump animal, fish and fowl gut at sea could threaten both the fishing and tourist industries here.

Health Minister Liz Thompson gave assurances that the health hazard does not exist and that her ministry, through the Environmental Engineering Department has already carried out extensive research and preliminary tests have been undertaken to ensure safety for those who live and visit here.

That statement by itself would not have satisfied the layman or the septic reading in the SUNDAY SUN that there are possibly four or five reasons why dumping at sea should not be undertaken.

But the minister seemed so convinced that she went on to express the expectation that dumping at sea will have the opposite effect—it will enhance the feeding area for fish.

For the sake of Barbados we hope that the advice given to the minister is correct. The importance of our environment and its preservation is too critical to be trifled with, even though we recognise the need for the country to find an answer to the on-land problems associated with dumping animal parts in our land-fill dumps.

Whatever the problems of the Mangrove landfill dump, nothing must be done that would even hint of the possibility that waste could some day wash up on our shore or those of our neighbouring Caribbean islands. Nothing."

## BRAZIL

### Police Program for Protection of Amazon Region Noted

PY3012124494 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia  
Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Federal Police have drafted a program to fight environmental crimes, drug trafficking, and smuggling in general. The program will be implemented in the Amazon Region. Here is Marcia Pompeu's report on the issue:

[Begin Pompeu recording]

**Pompeu:** One more program for the defense of the Amazon Region. This one has been drafted by the Federal Police Secretariat, under instructions from the Justice Ministry. The program contemplates intensifying, in a preventive and systematic manner, the fight against environmental crimes, drug trafficking, and smuggling. In addition to all that, an increased number of federal policemen in the Amazon Region will enforce the actions of Ibama [Brazilian Institute for the Environment], Funai [National Indian Foundation], and Incra [National Land Reform and Settlement Institute] in the region.

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The program, which will ensure national control over the Amazon Region, is supported by the UN program for international control of drug trafficking, and involves \$220 million in resources. The program is called Pro-Amazonia, and is integrated with two other programs for the region: Sipam [Amazon Region Protection System], of the Strategic Affairs Secretariat, and Sivam [Amazon Region Surveillance System], of the Aeronautics Ministry. Colonel Wilson Romao, Federal Police director general, reports that the Pro-Amazonia program will have been fully implemented within four years. [end recording]

## CHILE

### Minister Labels Environment, Labor Key Issues for NAFTA

PY2712020194 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish  
14 Dec 94 p C2

[Article by Patricio Gomez Couchot]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Concepcion—Chilean Public Works Minister Ricardo Lagos has said that Chile must autonomously define its environment and labor guidelines before beginning negotiations to join NAFTA to prevent the imposition of regulations disregarding our situation.

He said: "It would be extremely inappropriate for countries which are now developed and which reached that condition by carrying out depredation in the past to now want to impose certain conditions. Anyone who has been involved in international negotiations in that field knows that the negotiations, in which the problems of environment and labor are extremely important, will be complex and difficult."

Lagos said that based on those definitions, Chile should be able to begin negotiations for joining NAFTA. He said: "We have the challenge of setting our own levels of development without carrying out depredation the way it was done in the past. But we also have to be careful to prevent the environment issue from stopping us from developing adequately. Those definitions will help us have clearer negotiations with NAFTA, the EEC, Mercosur [Common Market of the South], and Asia."

He said there will be free trade and low tariffs in the future but that many developed countries will seek other measures to protect themselves. He explained there is talk about "green barriers," that is a group of environmental measures for the production of certain goods and services.

Lagos emphasized that based on the framework law for the environment, other definitions must be made such as the administration of water basins and hydroelectric plants.

Lagos noted this is possible because there are countries like Mexico which have succeeded, after taking a hard stand on the environment and labor issues, in imposing their points of view. [passage omitted]

## Ecologist on Impact of Gas Pipeline Project

95SM0076A Santiago LA NACION in Spanish  
29 Nov 94 p 11

[Article by Manuel Villar]

[FBIS Translated Text] The energy megaprojects with "high environmental costs" which "people want to get approved quickly, in an attempt to elude provisions of the new and pending environmental law" are becoming major and controversial issues at the end of this century, issues whose impact will reach into the third millennium.

This was the assessment of the president of the Political Ecology Institute, Manuel Baquedano, who reported that the possible construction of seven thermal power plants, using gas from Argentina, is now under consideration for the Metropolitan Region of Santiago. He said this volume would damage the environment.

After stating that the use of natural gas is less polluting, he indicated that the difficulty is caused by the fact that the Transandean and GasAndes projects for Santiago "call for building seven thermal power plants in the Metropolitan Region." Such a possibility, he said, would cause—because of its 2,000-megawatt generating capacity—a "substantial increase in emissions of polluting gases, particularly of carbon dioxide (CO2), with a greenhouse effect, and of nitrogen dioxide, which affects the respiratory system."

He cited information which a Japanese scientist reported in Chile recently: "A study of the evaluation of the impact of one thermal power plant on the population in Japan lasted for eight years, and here, with luck, it will last eight months," said Baquedano.

Baquedano spoke of intrusions in the Los Cipreses National Reserve, of dams planned for the construction of hydroelectric power plants in the Maipo Canyon, and even trash, in discussing the excessive haste in trying to get these projects approved.

The GasAndes project is intended to meet demand for electricity for industrial, residential, and even transportation uses, using a vehicle reconversion process. This was one feature highly praised by Baquedano. He noted, though, that the community should be informed of the scope of this initiative.

## ECUADOR

### Esmeraldas Reforestation Plans Not Succeeding

95WN0054A Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish  
17 Nov 94 p E1

[Unattributed article: "In Esmeraldas, Planfor Is Still Waiting"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The small farmers do not have access to credit for reforestation: they have been unable to replant so much as 200 hectares. The forest resources of Eloy Alfaro and San Lorenzo are being abused.

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Esmeraldas (Ecuadoradio)—The National Plan for Forest Development (Planfor) is marking time on its own property. The small-scale timber industry is criticizing the performance of the the Ecuadoran Institute of Forestry, Nature Areas, and Wilderness Life (INEFAN).

Rodrigo Moreno, president of the National Association of Entrepreneurs of the Small-Scale Timber Industry (ANEPIN), says that INEFAN has done nothing to reforest 600,000 hectares despite having received more than \$5 billion. [as published]

He charged that INEFAN's policy tends to favor certain strata of society that are linked to the nation's economy.

Esmeraldas Province has a biodiversity that attracts the attention of the world's scientists, but it is facing problems that result from the indiscriminate cutting of its forests by the timber companies and shrimp fisheries.

The soils are suitable for growing trees, but the small farmers do not have access to credit. Fewer than 200 hectares have been successfully reforested.

In Moreno's opinion, the small-scale timber industry is at a disadvantage vis-a-vis the timber companies despite the fact that consumer demand is extremely weak and requires only 2,500 hectares per province—a figure that does not harm the nation's forest resources—to satisfy it.

When the Ecuadoran Institute of Agrarian Reform and Settlement (IERAC) went out of existence, INEFAN appeared on the scene in the role of the great land merchant who would benefit the timber entrepreneurs.

Moreno asserted that consortia such as Purocongo, Grupo Bahia, Pincay, Esparza, Belletine, Acuamar, Barreiro, and Zavala, among others, are established on the islands and estuaries of the Santiago, Onzole, and Cayapas rivers and on the shores of the northern part of the country. He said their shrimp-fishing installations are increasing in number every day, with the complicity of certain officials of the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry.

Moreno's statement is corroborated by Edgar Panchano, president of the Eloy Alfaro Council, which consists of environmentalists who work in the region in association with Comarene [expansion not given] and the National Union of Journalists (UNP) of Esmeraldas Province.

If this ecological genocide is not halted in time, the flora, the fauna, and the biodiversity of the entire area will disappear and the food chain will be broken.

If you travel to Limones and San Lorenzo, you will be able to verify this truth for yourself. Starting at Camarones, the shrimp ponds are found all along the coastal strip. The extensive region of La Tola, formerly filled with rich vegetation and corpulent mangrove trees—the world's tallest—now presents a somber appearance, and heavy equipment is increasingly robbing the region of its forest.

Moreno is also concerned about the eucalyptus wood-chip processing plant at the port of Esmeraldas. He warned that the forest resources of the Ecuadoran sierra will soon be gone. He said that the exploitation of timber in the form of logs "used to be restrained" by law, but now the deforestation and desertification of the region will go forward more rapidly.

He said that ANEPIN comprises 2,600 small businesses that provide direct employment for more than 100,000 skilled workers, who now run the risk of losing their means of livelihood, inasmuch as INEFAN is gradually fencing off access to the forest resources.

## **Box, p E1**

### **A Lack of Support in the Form of Credit**

The small industrialists are demanding that the law—and INEFAN's policies—be revised so that the forest resources can be rationalized for the benefit of the less advantaged sectors.

The bureaucratic obstacles to the granting of loans are constantly increasing. According to Rodrigo Moreno, five changes have been made in the law governing transactions and the qualification of potential borrowers.

The small industrialists have submitted two petitions at the national level. The first was submitted by the 6 de Diciembre cooperative of Lagarto—a town in the canton of Esmeraldas—in July 1993, but despite the fact that the cooperative has more than 50 members, no member has received a reforestation loan.

The same thing occurred in the case of the Sumaco cooperative. Its five applications to INEFAN to reforest 200 hectares were denied, for unknown reasons.

## **Box, p E1**

### **The Official Reply**

The chief counsel of INEFAN, Eduardo Escobar, denied that the agency has issued permits to the powerful groups of shrimp fishermen who have established their operations in northern Esmeraldas Province.

During the conference that was held to discuss policies for the sustainable management of the tropical forest, Escobar disclosed that INEFAN is involved in a lawsuit with the Luis Pincay group, one of those supposedly receiving preferential treatment.

Edgar Panchano, president of the Eloy Alfaro cantonal council, and peasants in the forest products sector say, however, that the forest is being cut by several groups of domestic and foreign capitalists. What is even worse is the fact that this is being done in Zone One of the Program for the Management of Coastal Resources, which is under the jurisdiction of the Office of the President of the Republic.

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The Esmeraldas branch of the National Union of Journalists (UNP) also protested the indiscriminate cutting of mangrove forests in the northern part of the province.

### JAMAICA

#### Agency Considers Banning Polychlorinated Biphenyls

FL2512224494 Bridgetown CANA in English  
2104 GMT 25 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec. 25, CANA—The placement of a total ban on the importation and local use of PCBs (Polychlorinated Biphenyls) is being considered by Jamaica's state-run environmental agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA). The action is being considered under the organization's pollution control programme, aimed at ensuring effective and appropriate waste management practices in Jamaica.

PCBs are a group of hydrocarbons that are toxic to both animals and plants. They are widely used in power-generating and electrical industries in transformers and capacitors. The PCB substance has useful properties such as a high boiling point, temperature stability, non-flammability and the ability to mix well with organic solvents. However, local experts say it is now known to be cancer-causing and its use has been banned in many other countries around the world. Large-scale exposures in humans have been associated with miscarriages, birth defects, impaired infant development, cancer, liver disorders and hypertension.

All users and holders of PCB material in Jamaica are being asked to submit an inventory of the material now in stock and in use to the NRCA. The NRCA says it will be developing guidelines for the use and safe disposal of PCBs and PCB-contaminated material "based on internationally-accepted norms".

It is insisting that no final disposal of PCBs should take place without its prior approval. Arrangements are being made for PCB waste to be exported to a selected facility capable of final disposal in an "environmentally sound manner", the NRCA said in a statement here. The NRCA also stressed that all PCB-containing material should be stored in accordance with "approved guidelines".

### MEXICO

#### Authorities Assess Possible Effects of Volcano Eruption

PA3012043894 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network  
in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Dec 94

[Report by Juan Carlos Escobedo and Victor Mejia, from the "Evening News Panorama" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] A report issued by the National Disaster Prevention Center [Centro Nacional de Prevencion de Desastres—Cenaprev] states that villages surrounding Popocatepetl Volcano continue to be in a state of pre-alert although the activity displayed over the last few days has decreased.

In an interview, Cenaprev spokesman Ricardo Cicero Betancourt, said that he is waiting for the latest report by the technical committee, although until now, the volcano's seismic activity has apparently not stabilized.

According to Cenaprev, the volcano's smoke contains increasingly fewer gases, while water vapor is prevalent; therefore, there is nothing to indicate a change in the pre-alert status in effect since yesterday.

Regarding the villages of Santiago, (Celicinctla), San Nicolas de los Ranchos, and San Buenaventura in (El Tican), their residents still remain evacuated in view of the fact that conditions still do not permit their return. Ricardo Cicero reiterated that the biggest risk is the glacier at the top of the volcano, which could break up and cause avalanches, which would pose a high risk to the population.

[Begin Cicero recording]

Cicero: The risk is due to the glacier on the north side of the volcano, which could melt or break up and cause a sort of avalanche. [end recording]

He also mentioned that overflights to study the glacier's structure continue in addition to monitoring activity so as to issue a better and more exact forecast in the next few hours.

Specialists from UNAM [National Autonomous University of Mexico], Cenaprev, and also French, Canadian, and U.S. personnel who are part of the advisory technical commission, are taking part in this work.

Mexico City authorities have given assurances that in the event the Popocatepetl Volcano erupts violently, Mexico City would only suffer the annoyance of the arrival of people living in areas close to the volcano and the rain of ashes, without further consequences.

Appearing before the assembly of representatives, Mr. Carlos Saenz Luna, who is responsible for the city's civil defense, said that federal district residents have no reason to be alarmed because the 85 km average distance to the Popocatepetl Volcano ensures that intense volcanic activity would be harmless.

[Begin Saenz recording]

Saenz: If the worst took place and the Popocatepetl Volcano were to erupt—we are monitoring the National Civil Defense System—the worst that could happen would be that homeless people from Puebla, Morelos, and Mexico states would begin to arrive. In this event, the city government has taken preventive action. The other effect would be a rain of ashes. [end recording]

Dr. Daniel Ruiz Fernandez, public works secretary for the Mexico City government, said that preliminary analysis of the ashes show them to be nontoxic and are no danger to pipes or drains.

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[Begin recording]

**Unidentified reporter:** How would a rain of ashes affect the potable water and drainage systems?

**Saenz:** These ashes are no longer toxic and do not settle or cause sediment, so we believe there would be no problem to the drainage system. These ashes float on water because they are very fine, like talcum powder. We are completing the chemical and physical studies in our laboratories. [end recording]

He added that all people need do with these ashes is clean them from their homes and protect themselves to prevent becoming dirty.

Nevertheless, a study made by the city government and distributed among reporters, show these ashes to be very different. The 10-page document states that ashes from the Popocatepetl Volcano are abrasive and affect body mucus, such as eyes and lower respiratory systems like the bronchi and lungs. The study adds that these ashes can also contaminate water supplies and damage drains by hardening, thus blocking drains as well as causing severe damage to the ecosystem—very different to what these gentlemen reported before the assembly of representatives.

Ruiz Fernandez himself said, regarding the seismic alarm, that it is not failproof, thus the people cannot trust it to work 100 percent.

## NICARAGUA

### Program To Build Wood-Conserving Stoves Reported

95WN0050A Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish  
16 Nov 94 p 14

[FBIS Translated Text] Ocotol—Recently we were talking with Rolando Payan Osegueda, regional director of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock [MAG] in the First Region. We were speaking specifically about the widespread stripping of our forests for profit in order to use the wood as firewood, something that benefits a few but does serious harm to the environment.

The official explained that the MAG in Region I was encouraging the use of wood-conserving stoves, especially by the rural population. He pointed out that validation of the stoves had started in 1991 thanks to the MAG-CATIE [expansion not given] Project, that 32 had been built, and that they had been so well received that some groups of farmers had taken responsibility for building them with their own resources.

He said that through various programs, the ministry had managed to build a total of 464 such stoves with the unsolicited support of the beneficiaries and that it planned to continue encouraging that type of technology next year.

"It is extremely important," he said, "that this model be adopted, since studies have shown that it uses only 50 percent as much firewood as the traditional stove." He

added: "Experience shows that if the public accepted this technology, firewood consumption would decline, and deforestation would be cut in half, thus benefiting natural resources and the environment."

He said that because of its chimney, the stove model designed by the MAG reduces the amount of smoke escaping into the home and also maintains greater pressure, thus saving time in food preparation (cooking), and he pointed out that the reduced heat from the stove makes things more comfortable for the cook.

He emphasized that "this kind of stove has insulation that keeps food hot longer after it is prepared, reduces the time spent collecting firewood, permits several dishes to be prepared at the same time because it has more burners than the traditional stove, and allows better use of energy materials such as kindling, corn cobs and so on, and other materials," he said, pointing out that one can also bake doughnuts and prepare stuffed chicken.

### How Stove is Constructed

The stove model designed by the MAG consists simply of an adobe table 1.8 meters long by 0.75 meter wide, two arms made of panel brick, and a ramp consisting of a brick laid on its side or flat between the arms to prevent the firewood from touching bottom and disturbing the distribution of heat; the flat surface, made of iron, is built in the shape of a rectangular frame and filled with selected material, and the chimney, too, must not be forgotten.

The materials needed are these: two one-quarter [unit of measurement not stated] iron bars, three kg of cement, 20 kg of sand, two tubes of concrete, 50 pounds of suitable dirt from the area, 13 panel bricks, and two pounds of salt to which manure has been added.

Rolando Payan Osegueda emphasized that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock feels that spreading this technology is extremely important to Nicaragua because it is an alternative available to people of limited means, and he mentioned as proof the fact that the necessary materials are not unaffordable.

## PANAMA

### Environmental Impact of Panama City-Colon Highway Studied

PA2512025794 Panama City Circuito RPC Television  
in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Dec 94

[From the "RPC Television News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government and environmental groups are planning to seek alternate routes for the Panama City-Colon highway to prevent the highway's construction from damaging the environment.

The new thoroughfare has been sought by residents of Colon for many years. Nevertheless, environmental groups have warned about the need to seek alternate routes for certain sections of the highway to protect the environment.

[Begin recording of Juan Carlos Navarro, director of the National Association for the Conservation of Nature]

**Juan Carlos Navarro:** There are routes that can allow us to build the highway, eliminate road hazards, shorten the amount of time it takes to drive between Panama City and Colon, and achieve the country's development while protecting the tropical rain forest and the Canal's watershed. We can, therefore, have economic development while preserving the basin. That is our goal. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the authorities said the construction of the Panama City-Colon highway is a fait accompli, but they are willing to review various options to avoid damaging the environment.

[Begin Public Works Minister Luis Enrique Blanco recording]

**Luis Enrique Blanco:** This is a decision already made by the cabinet. The nation needs this highway. The current roadway is dangerous. We know there have been many delays. We also know that both the northern corridor and the new highway are necessary. Both will be built. We are also taking the necessary steps to minimize any adverse effects on the environment. [end recording]

Studies concerning the highway's impact on the environment will soon be presented by PYCSA Inc., which is in charge of building the highway. The studies will be reviewed by environmental groups and the nation's forestry authorities.

### **Mining Chamber Presents Reforestation Plan to President**

*PA2512155994 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 24 Dec 94 p A-6*

[FBIS Translated Text] During a recent meeting at the Palace of the Herons, the Mining Chamber of Panama presented to President Ernesto Perez Balladares a national reforestation plan and reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable development through the application of a code of conduct for its ecological policy.

The Mining Chamber presented for the president's consideration several projects considered important to industrial development and the national economy.

The group voiced its support for the government's socio-economic policy and its interest in attracting major Canadian investors interested in exploiting mines in Panama.

Meanwhile, President Perez Balladares has said that although mining is a budding activity in Panama, it has a great future and that it could generate jobs to help promote the economic takeoff we are seeking.

He added the national government gladly welcomes the Mining Chamber's recommendations, which will be channeled through the Commerce and Industry Ministry, Mici.

Perez Balladares has said: "I will take this document to the Mici" shortly after receiving the code of conduct adopted by the Mining Chamber, which is based entirely on concepts of sustainable development.

The Ecological Code of Conduct includes the implementation of a national reforestation plan in several provinces and the adoption of measures to ease the environmental impact of mining activities.

The reforestation idea came from Foresta Nacional, Inc., which is planning to carry it out along with the Institute of Renewable Natural Resources.

## INDIA

### Network Being Set Up for Hazardous Waste Management

BK0201025295 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 1 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A nationwide network is being set up for management of hazardous and solid waste. It will also help in controlling the emission of poisonous gases. A national register for potentially toxic chemicals is also on the anvil and the basic infrastructure for the purpose has been created. According to the Environment Ministry, contingency plans to deal with any emergency in four industrial pockets of West Bengal are now under preparations. These places are Midnapore, Howrah, Hooghly, and Rishra. In addition, a time-bound action-plan has been taken up to check the pollution level in 22 heavily polluted industrial areas in the country.

## IRAN

### Underground Water Pollution Causes Concern

LD2212133794 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] If the current trend of polluting the underground waters in the country continues, a large part of these sources will be contaminated and undrinkable within the next 10 years.

According to the chairman of the board of State Organization for Research into Water Resources, the waste water from the refineries and industrial areas, as well as, sewage from the cities and hospitals are the main factors responsible for polluting the underground waters.

He asked the State Environmental Protection Organization to take action as soon as possible to confront strongly the elements who pollute the underground waters.

## ISRAEL

### Meqorot Details Plan for Israel-Jordan Desalination Project

TA2812122094 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by David Rudge]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A desalination plant to meet Elat's growing need for drinking water is among the major new projects Meqorot, the national water company, intends to carry out in 1995.

Meqorot spokesman Ya'el Shoham said the plant in Elat, where a pilot scheme is already in operation, would be followed by a much bigger desalination project—to supply fresh water from the gulf to both Elat and Jordan's al-'Aqabah, in association with a Japanese company.

Details were outlined at a press conference in Tel Aviv yesterday by Meqorot chairman Sar-Shalom Shiran and acting director-general 'Ovadya Ela.

They announced Meqorot's 1995 budget would top NIS [new Israeli shekels] 1.6 billion, of which NIS 600 million are destined for development projects. Shiran noted the development budget is double this year's, saying this had been made possible by reforms enabling Meqorot to raise money on the capital market.

Other development projects include building a plant on the northern shore of Lake Kinneret to desalinate water from three briny springs. This water is to be used to boost Jordan's water resources under the peace treaty.

Some of the budget is to be used to renovate pumping equipment at the Sapir site of the National Water Carrier, in conjunction with an American firm, as well as to supply more recycled water for agriculture and to improve some urban water networks.



## RUSSIA

**Deliberate Pollution Harms Vladimir Water Supply**

*MM2811154194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA  
in Russian 26 Nov 94 First Edition p 1*

[Report by Yuriy Shatalov: "City Without Water. Health of Vladimir's 220,000 Residents at Risk As Result of Criminal Negligence and Cynicism of Ivanovo Economic Managers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In early October the people of Vladimir had already been through one shock caused by the threat by local blackmailers to poison with concentrated cyanide the water entering the oblast center's water network. But barely a month and a half after the arrest of the crooks—who failed to carry out their sinister plans—a new and real threat of water supplies to thousands of citizens being poisoned has emerged.

The city people saw the first signs of the disaster a week ago, when water in their apartments started smelling strongly not only of chlorine but of manure. It was impossible to drink it or use it for cooking. Clothes washed in it acquired the kind of smell that usually comes from dirty cattle yards.

On arriving in Vladimir, the specialists urgently called in from the oblast Nature Conservancy Committee, civil defense, the oblast and city administration, and representatives of the Russian Federation Ministry for Emergency Situations immediately flew off in a helicopter to survey the channel of the Nerl River, from where the contaminated water had entered the city's water supply. They did not discover on Vladimir Oblast territory a single more or less serious source of contamination of the river that supplies two-thirds of Vladimir's drinking water.

They decided to fly on further, to Ivanovo Oblast. And they were not wrong. In the region bordering Vladimir Oblast, they came across the Petrovskiy Liquor Plant, which was quite happily dumping large amounts of ammonia and waste water in the river. Further investigations took the team to the Petrovskiy Stockraising Complex, located virtually on the bank of the river. What the specialists saw there horrified them.

"The fitters servicing the equipment explained that they had been ordered to discharge the contaminant into the stream by the chief of the complex," Valeriy Vildyayev, the oblast administration's deputy head of ecology, said.

Having shut off the pipeline and compiled a report [akt] in the presence of representatives of Ivanovo Oblast, the Vladimir people set off home. But many of them were worried, and somebody suggested that they go back and check once more that the river was no longer threatened with contamination.... That is what they did.

You can imagine the surprise of the members of the operational team when they once again saw liquid

manure flowing into the river. The workers who were present again claimed that they had been forced to do it by the chief of the complex. The pipe had to be blocked by means of a wooden plug. The head of the Vladimir Oblast Administration then demanded that his Ivanovo colleague take urgent measures to eliminate the sources of pollution to the Nerl River. Judging by everything, these measures have been taken, since the content of ammonia nitrogen in the river has fallen markedly. But the water reaching the city is still not usable. Consequently, the city authorities have organized supplies of pure water for all preschool institutions. Water purification installations are operating at schools and hospitals.

**Forum Links Poor Environment to Child Sickness**

*MM1711144394 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN  
in Russian 5 Nov 94 p 5*

[Report by Leonid Kruglov, science observer for SELSKAYA ZHIZN, under the "Environmental Diary" rubric: "Look Into the Eyes of a Child"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A Russian-U.S. conference devoted to children's health in environmental disaster areas was recently held near Moscow. [passage omitted]

The main aim of the conference, organized by the Center for Independent Environmental Programs and the U.S. Institute of World Problems, was to draw attention to the health problems of children living in areas where the natural environment has essentially been destroyed and where the mortality rate is far higher than the national statistical average.

"The first task is to establish a clear link between children's health and environmental pollution. After all, it is sometimes very difficult to prove that a child's illness has been caused directly by unfavorable environmental factors," Mariya Valentinovna Cherkasova, director of the Center for Independent Environmental Programs, said. "Our center is not a government organization with branches all over the country. Its main task is to defend people's right to a healthy environment, assist the population in environmental disaster areas, and preserve our natural and cultural heritage. We work on specific programs and projects and carry out independent environmental assessments. I spent a large part of my life working at the Environmental Protection Institute, where I was involved in compiling the Red Book of rare and threatened species of plants and animals. Our planet's flora and fauna are mainly disappearing because their natural habitat is being destroyed. It was then that I reached the conclusion that the world is on the brink of an environmental catastrophe, when we will be able to do little more than include man himself in the Red Book [of endangered species], as he will have nowhere left to go on earth. Degradation of the air, water, and soil has reached the limit. Our children suffer most of all from this. They must be protected first and foremost."

There are real reasons for alarm. For the first time since the end of the war, Russia's mortality rate is higher than

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its birth rate. In 1992, 11 percent fewer children were born than in 1991. Last winter the number of deaths in Russia was more than 50 percent higher than the number of births. The economic collapse is not the only reason for this. There is also a purely environmental basis to the problem.

A serious demographic situation has developed in the country. In the last 10 years the morbidity rate in newborn babies has risen from 82.4 to 173.7 per 1,000 births.

The incidence of bronchial asthma in children almost doubled in the period 1986-1990, and virtually every child in the country now suffers from one allergy or another.

"We have been drawn to Russia by the desire to combine efforts in the fight for a healthy environment, which is necessary to people living today and to future generations," Bradford Johnson, codirector of the Russian-U.S. project "Child Invalids in Environmental Disaster Areas" and executive director of the U.S. Institute of World Problems, said. "Children are the future of mankind, irrespective of the country in which they live. As a lawyer, I am primarily concerned by the problem of defending people's right to a healthy environment." Doctor of Medical Sciences V.V. Fokiyeva, a professor at the Moscow Institute of Pediatrics and Children's Surgery, talked about new, previously unknown children's illnesses, which are very similar to conventional illnesses in their clinical profile but are actually caused by unfavorable environmental factors. A new field is opening up in pediatric medicine: Environmental pathology.

"I am particularly concerned by the situation in rural areas, where essentially there is no monitoring of the environment," Valeriya Vasilyevna said. "The quality of drinking water has dramatically deteriorated everywhere as small rivers and subterranean water tables have become polluted by discharges from livestock units and by the crude use of toxic chemicals. People draw water from wells without realizing that they are sometimes drinking poison. Children are always the first to suffer, of course. The time when it was believed that children living in rural areas were healthier than their urban counterparts has long gone. The World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF, recently adopted an environmental program of child protection. This is no accident. We doctors now encounter children's illnesses totally unknown to science. The medical profession simply does not know how to treat them."

One such region is Kemerovo Oblast, which Yuriy Fedorovich Kaznin, the toxicologist who heads the Kuzbass branch of the Socioenvironmental Union, described as a working model of hell on earth. Emissions from the Novokuznetsk Metallurgical Combine—equivalent to 600 carloads per day—even fall into Lake Baykal. There is not a single gram of unpolluted subterranean water within a 50-kilometer radius of Kemerovo.

Drinking water in the city of Yurga is poisoned with chlororganic compounds. Most of the River Tom has been turned into a gutter containing toxic substances. There are smoking waste banks, methane gas emissions from mines, mountain taiga heavy with polluted air, which will perish by the beginning of the next century, and thousands upon thousands of hectares of agricultural land taken out of circulation because the soil contains all kinds of toxic substances.... As many as 913 rivers and streams in the Kuzbass have disappeared in the last 50 years. In this environmental disaster zone, 80 in 1,000 children have congenital deformities.

In the village of Anisimovo in Altay, situated 50 kilometers from a missile destruction site, four months after an explosion carried out in June 1989 almost all newborn babies were yellow as a result of damage to the liver. They were only saved by a 100 percent blood transfusion.

"Obviously we must improve the technology for destroying missiles with highly toxic fuel. Explosion sites must not be located in densely populated regions or close to marshes and areas with high-level subsoil waters," Doctor of Medical Sciences Vladimir Mikhaylovich Lupandin, a leading research associate of the Russian Academy of Sciences Sociology Institute and head of the first Russian-U.S. program to study the medical consequences of the Chernobyl accident, said.

The country's top specialists in the field of pediatric medicine, teachers, and parents bringing up invalid children who are victims of environmental pollution are sounding the alarm. The nation's health and, therefore, its future are in danger. The Center for Independent Environmental Programs, which organized this meeting with U.S. specialists, has set itself a noble aim: to ensure mankind's survival on earth. Political trends, state borders, and so forth, which currently divide people, no longer play any role in this situation. If anyone doubts this, let him look into the eyes of a child.

#### **Spring Floods Threaten Oil Pollution of Pechora River**

*MM0301101995 Moscow TRUD in Russian 30 Dec 94 p 2*

[Report by Pavel Zybin: "Spring Will Come and Oil from Usinsk Will Flow into the Pechora River"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This disturbing forecast was disseminated by the Russian Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring [Rosgidromet] just before the New Year. By the time of the spring floods the soil, which is moist and frozen through, will be practically unable to absorb the melted snow waters and the spilled oil will have nowhere to go but into the Pechora River basin. Especially since dikes were washed away during last fall's torrential rains and oil products seeped into the Kolva and Usa Rivers. And a vast quantity of oil was spilled.

How much exactly? Different figures are cited by different sources of information. There is no unanimity on this account even in the Ministry of Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources. A government source, who wished to remain anonymous, reported that, during the 1 November 1994 conference held at the office of First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets, Ministers Yu. Shafranik, S. Shoygu, and V. Danilov-Danilyan and Republic of Komi Representative N. Kochurin announced that they estimated the volume of the spilled oil at no more than 14,000 tonnes. But the point is that these data originate from "Komineft" Joint-Stock Company, the culprit of the disaster.

Rosgidromet presented its own version in a report to the government and the State Duma Committee for Ecology, and its data appear to be the most reliable. After all, it was a Rosgidromet subdivision—the "Arctic Monitoring" regional center—which conducted a most extensive survey of the accident area 8-26 November and discovered not just one but at least two (!) "dirty" spots near Usinsk. It also established that the total spillage amounted to between 100,000 and 120,000 tonnes. You must agree that this is somewhat more than 14,000. The fact that last August's accident was not the only one is also confirmed by an analysis of oil samples indicating their different "ages."

And how is "Komineft" honoring its pledges to mop up the spilled oil and prevent its further seepage? Aerial surveys indicate that the measures being implemented there focused mainly on urgent patching of the damaged pipeline sections rather than on eliminating the consequences of the oil pollution. The results of studies of snow cover samples offer no consolation, either. The snow in the Kolva River basin is polluted by hydrocarbons with carcinogenic properties. This is evidently due to the burning of oil in the open air. What is the likely impact of the concentration of such toxic compounds and their flow into the river with the spring flood waters? After all, the waters of the Kolva, Usa, and Pechora Rivers are used as sources of municipal water supplies. This poses a real threat to the population inhabiting not only the Kolva River basin but also the middle and lower Pechora River basin below the Usa River's confluence.

We would like to hope that this forecast by Rosgidromet will be wrong. Yet it would be not only naive but actually criminal to sit back and only hope.

### Grozny Oil Refinery Fire Causing 'Ecological Catastrophe'

LD3012100294 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian  
0830 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Aleksandr Krutiyeu, aide to the Russian president's representative in Ingushetia, has called for immediate fire-fighting measures to be started to combat the blaze at the oil refinery in Grozny, INTERFAX reports. The Chechen authorities assert that the fire began as a result of bombing by Russian aircraft.

According to Krutiyeu, half the skyscrapers in Ingushetia are covered with trails of smoke and soot. An ecological catastrophe is starting in the Caucasus because of the large quantity of soot, Krutiyeu stressed.

### Ecology Minister Doubts Usinsk Oil Spill Can Be Fixed Soon

MK2812141394 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA  
in Russian 28 Dec 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Andrey Bayduzhiy under the "Ecology" rubric: "Oil Is Still Running Near Usinsk. Further Large Accidents Are Possible on Russian Pipelines"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The Environmental Protection Ministry is greatly concerned about the slow pace of cleanup operations on territories polluted as a result of the accident on a pipeline near Usinsk." Ecology Minister Viktor Danilov-Danilyan said at a news conference the other day. "We are still not certain that the program of eliminating effects of the accident will be completed. The construction of a new pipeline is also behind schedule. The old pipeline cannot be closed, however, because it supplies over 50,000 people with energy resources."

It is well known that by decree of the Komi Republic Government, the Komineft enterprise, which allowed the accident to occur, was obliged to eliminate its consequences by 1 April and to build a new pipeline by as early as 1 December. Work in this area is lagging behind schedule, however, and there is a real threat that the effects of the accident will not be eliminated even by the spring floods, when the spilled oil will be able to enter the rivers once again. To all appearances, as NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA has already reported, not only will it be impossible to complete all planned cleanup operations, it will not even be possible definitively to assess how much oil was spilled. According to Danilov-Danilyan, "the actual scale of the accident on the pipeline in Komi has never been assessed, but there is not the slightest doubt that the Komineft association, which is responsible for the accident, set its initial data too low." It will be recalled that according to representatives of this company, "only" 14,033 tonnes of oil were spilled. Other sources gave much greater, albeit varying, figures. For instance, on 6 September 1994 the Usinsk City Environmental Protection Committee said that 64,256 tonnes were spilled, while a month later the Russian-American Nordeco Inc. joint venture cited the figure of 102,946 tonnes, and on 31 October the Social-Ecological Union shocked everybody by its announcement about a 200,000-tonne oil spill, and, finally, the Geopolis firm, which conducted its own inquiry at the request of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs, put the oil spill at 79,000 tonnes. The Geopolis data—since Geopolis had no motive either to downplay or to exaggerate the scale of the accident—were seen by many specialists as the most reliable estimate. However, the Ecology Ministry commission under Deputy Minister Viktor

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Kostin, which has just returned from Komi, brought new evidence which, according to Danilov-Danilyan, puts the oil spill at somewhere between 90,000 and 120,000 tonnes.

At any rate, environmental protection agencies are inclined to believe precisely this last estimate, on the basis of which the initial amount of fines imposed on Komineft for environmental damage was increased from 62 billion to 311 billion rubles. Still it is not known whether the fine can be exacted from the association, which is guilty of failure to prevent the accident: At present, the association's debts for late wages alone stand at over 25 billion rubles, so environmental payments will have to take a back seat. Moreover, it has transpired that the Komineft management, which announced in the first weeks after the accident that it would cope with the effects of the spill on its own and refused to accept any financial assistance for this purpose, plans to request a 45-billion-ruble loan from the Russian government in the near future and an authorization to export 300,000 tonnes of oil on preferential terms. This can be interpreted as an indirect acknowledgement of the fact that the scale of environmental damage is much larger than was initially announced. Still, leaks from the ill-starred pipeline continue up to the present day on a more or less regular basis. Even when an Environmental Protection Ministry commission visited the site of the accident, about 70 tonnes of oil spilled from the pipeline through a blowout.

When asked by your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent to comment on statements by a number of high-ranking Komi Republic officials and Sergey Stepashin, director of the Federal Counterintelligence Service, that the scale of the Usinsk accident was blown out of proportion by Russian oil companies' Western competitors, Danilov-Danilyan said that the environmental damage already done is immense, so it makes no sense to exploit the uproar in the Western mass media so as to downplay its scale in the Russian media. All the more so because even more serious accidents could occur on Russian pipelines at any moment. By various estimates, from 25 to 70 percent of domestic pipelines are currently in a state of emergency. In this regard, the Usinsk spill, which seems ordinary to Russian oil producers and unprecedented by Western yardsticks, was in a way even helpful: It has made it possible to draw a good deal of public attention to the problem of pollution in the North caused by the oil and gas industries, a problem that has long concerned specialists.

#### **Yeltsin Signs Edict on Financing Radiation Facilities**

*LD2312152594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English  
1443 GMT 23 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 23 TASS—A decree "On Financing of Radiation- and Nuclear-Hazardous Productions and Facilities" was signed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin today. The document aims at safe and stable functioning of the aforesaid productions and facilities, reports the presidential press service.

The decree instructs the Russian Government to make within a month a list of enterprises and organizations which have radiation- and nuclear-hazardous productions and facilities that are developing, producing, operating, storing, transporting and utilizing nuclear arms, their components, radiation-hazardous materials and items.

The government is also instructed to ensure non-stop financing of works done at these productions and facilities with the obligatory advance payments for this spending within the limit of 40 per cent of annual amount of budget allocations.

Enterprises and organizations which have radiation- and nuclear-hazardous productions and facilities receive the right to make deductions and accumulate centralized assets for financing of the defence production conversion at an amount of three per cent from the product's prime cost.

#### **NATO Seminar on Chemical Arms To Be Held in Kaliningrad**

*LD2312054394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English  
0534 GMT 23 Dec 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Mineyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Brussels 23 Dec (TASS)—A NATO scientific seminar on chemical arms is to be held in the once restricted-access town of Kaliningrad near Moscow from January 12 to 14. The seminar will deal with matters aimed at protecting the seas washing the northern shores of Europe from chemical weapons dumped underwater.

About 300,000 tonnes of chemical munitions were submerged in the north Atlantic, North and Baltic Seas, and in the English Channel at the end of the Second World War.

About 40 chemists, biologists, medical experts, engineers, and weapons disposal experts from Russia, Germany, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Britain, and the United States, who will attend the seminar, will analyse all aspects of the problem, evaluate the extent of danger posed by the munitions in their present-day condition and map out programmes to preclude dangerous consequences of the spread of toxic agents.

#### **Pacific Navy Wants More Funds To Cope With Conversion**

*LD2312103494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English  
0746 GMT 23 Dec 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniya Lents]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladivostok December 23 TASS—Naval "conversion" projects and utilization of liquid radioactive wastes were the main points of an interview which Commander of the Pacific Navy Admiral Igor Khmelnov gave ITAR-TASS on Friday.



"Naval conversion projects pose a rather serious problem. The Russian Government issued several decrees on selling the warships as scrap metal, under which the Pacific Navy gets 60 percent of revenues for specific purposes (purchasing and construction of housing for the active servicemen). However, these decisions fell flat, and the Navy got money only for three out of six warships which were sold this year," Khmelnov said.

According to him, the problem of utilization of submarines is the most vulnerable aspect of naval conversion projects. Several scores of submarines were brought to the Bay of Strelak, where they have to wait until an efficient processing facility is built.

The Bolshekamensk-based "Zvezda" works would answer the purpose best of all, but in this case additional expenditures would be needed to buy the equipment, and it is only federal authorities in Moscow which may allot the necessary funds.

"As to the problem of liquid radioactive wastes, naval experts propose their own projects," he said. For example, the Sharya processing installation passed trial runs successfully in the Northern Navy in 1992-1993. The Pacific Navy bought two such compact installations (weighing 200 kilos each), which began operating on its bases in the Primorye Maritime territory and the Kamchatka Peninsula in July, 1994. The installations separate water from the liquid radioactive wastes, which after being processed turn into a soggy mass, which is subsequently concreted in the form of cubes to be placed in a dumping ground.

All in all, some 500 tonnes of liquid radioactive wastes had been processed over a period from August to October this year and the operations go on.

However, the compact processing installations cannot solve the problem, Khmelnov said. The admiral pins his hopes on a prompt construction of a large-scale liquid radioactive wastes processing complex. Currently, international tenders for its construction are under way in Vladivostok.

The Primorye territorial authorities will have the final say in determining the winner of the international contest, whereas representatives of the Pacific Navy will enjoy the right of a consultative voice only.

#### **Commission Dissatisfied With Pace of Komi Oil Cleanup**

*LD2112201994 Moscow INTERFAX in English  
1448 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 21 (Interfax)—Members of a Russian parliamentary commission called the pace of efforts to "liquidate the accident" at the pipeline near Usinsk (Republic of Komi within the Russian Federation) "unsatisfactory," the leader of the

commission reported to Interfax. Several days ago a group of experts headed by Danilov visited the Republic of Komi (Russia's north).

The accident on the pipeline Vozey-Golovnyye Sooruzheniya, belonging to the joint stock company Komineft, occurred this August-September. According to Komineft, as many as 14,000 tonnes of oil have spilled over 26.4 hectares as a result of "air holes" in the pipeline.

A special UN commission studying the consequences of the accident in December claimed that as much as 79,000 tonnes of oil was spilled over 65 hectares. The Russian-American joint venture Nordeko reported a leakage of 103,000 tonnes of oil.

Danilov reported that the commission would back the request to allocate 50 billion rubles to finance the efforts aimed at "liquidation of the accident's consequences." He pointed out that until a new 52-kilometer-long section of the pipeline is put into operation "one can expect a new accident on the operating pipeline, which was actually written off five years ago."

"The scale of the economic and environmental damage caused by the Usinsk accident is still being calculated," Danilov stressed.

#### **Oil Spill in Usinsk Not Hazardous Outside Russia**

*LD1612160994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English  
1543 GMT 16 Dec 94*

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Aleksander Samozhnev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 16 TASS—The volume of oil spilled as a result of the damage to the oil pipeline in Usinsk proved to be five times larger than the officially stated data and approaches 79 thousand tonnes. However, the spill is not hazardous for the environment outside Russia. This conclusion has been drawn by a United Nations group of experts who have been invited to assess the accident. At the same time, in expert opinion, there is the need for a number of protective measures and for decreasing rivers' pollution. This will make it possible to avoid a sharp deterioration of the state of the environment and prevent the spill of oil into the Barents Sea.

The United Nations group of experts arrived at the conclusion that oil pollution is not the result of a one-time spill, but of the accumulation of oil spilt over many years, particularly in the summer and autumn of 1994, said Michael Elmqvist, chief of the group of experts. It was established that a total area of 65 hectares was polluted with oil.

Efforts of the United Nations department for humanitarian affairs and of experts of the United Nations environment programme were first rallied in Komi, Elmqvist said. Another United Nations mission will

arrive in Russia for inspection in April 1995. The next stage will be to invite independent experts to estimate the material damage from the leakage.

### **Commission Says No Moscow Help in Cleaning Komi Oil Spill**

*LD1812061994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1748 GMT 17 Dec 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Makarov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Usinsk (Komi Republic), 17 Dec (TASS)—Another commission concerning the accidents, which occurred in August-September on the oil pipeline near Usinsk, today ended its work here. It consisted this time of members of a commission of deputies of the State Duma, Ministry of Environment, and the Socio-Ecological Association of Russia.

None of the numerous commissions which have been here have yet given any real help especially in resolving the problems of finance of the work. There is a catastrophic shortage of money for the work of cleaning up the territory and building a new oil pipeline.

The people working here have not even received their wages for months now. The 100-billion-ruble loan promised by the Ministry of Fuel and Energy has been obstructed for more than a month now by officials in Moscow.

Aid of 150 million rubles allegedly allocated by the Ministry of for Emergencies has, despite its insignificance, not been received either.

A telegram requesting the allocation of 45 billion rubles aid for eliminating the aftermath of the accidents was sent to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin by head of the Komi Republic Yuriy Spiridonov and this has so far been left unanswered.

The rate of work cleaning up polluted territory and building a new pipeline remains extremely slow.

## **AZERBAIJAN**

### **Environmental Fallout From Oil Boom Viewed**

*95WN0055A Baku AZERBAYDZHAN in Russian 10 Dec 94 p 2*

[Article by S. Gezalova, chief of the Department for the Protection of Atmospheric Air, of the Azerbaijani Republic's Goskomekologiya [State Committee on Geology], under rubric "Ecology": "Oil and the Republic's Atmospheric Basin"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baku is one of the worst cities in the entire East with respect to the suitability of the air environment for human habitation. More than a hundred years of exploiting hydrocarbon raw materials in a relatively small area and the spewing of colossal quantities of

harmful substances into the air basin have left an imprint on the ecological situation and the flora and fauna in this unique land.

The decree enacted by the USSR leadership concerning measures to protect the atmosphere of Baku and the republic from pollution has remained unfulfilled because of the political events that unfolded subsequently. The intensive poisoning of the atmosphere continued and by the present time has reached the brink of ecological calamity. Anthropogenic (caused by man's activities) processes are occurring so intensively that nature is finding it impossible to purify itself.

One can discern several stages in the upsurge and the decrease in the extraction of black gold in our country. The first boom was observed in the second half of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century, when powerful capital from without flooded this Klondike. At that time no special interest was taken in questions of protecting the environment: the oil gushers left behind themselves entire lakes that poisoned the soil and vegetation, and spewed poisonous hydrocarbon gas into the atmosphere. Man, the ruler of nature, in order to carry out various operations, descended into the well, without taking into consequence any of the consequences for his health.

The second boom was after the establishment of Soviet authority in the republic, when the young Russian state needed a large amount of fuel. The drying up of part of Baku Bay began. The very large gusher at Bibi-Eybat left behind itself a twisted drill tower and a foul-smelling lake, into the construction of artificial dikes around which many of the residents of Baku were thrown as participants in the first socialist *subbotniks* [volunteer labor days]. Memories of all these things have not yet been expunged from the oldtimers' memory. There were very few people who thought about the damage being done to the environment.

The third boom was 1941-1945. The war front needed fuel, and Baku delivered it efficiently, without taking the ecological consequences into consideration. Tremendous tanks filled with crude oil were towed by sea as far as Astrakhan, and from there along the Volga. After the war, Baku Bay was so polluted with crude oil that even the marine swimming pool on the boulevard was closed.

In our time the fourth boom, which is linked with the large reserves of Caspian crude oil, is beginning.

When deep deposits are assimilated, tremendous harm is inflicted on human health. On the territory of the housing areas within the Abseron [Apsheron] Peninsula, the amount of phenol, hydrocarbons, and hydrogen sulfide exceeds the maximum allowable amount by a factor of 2-8, and this leads to cardiovascular, oncological, and allergic diseases.

The harmful emissions into the atmosphere from oil-producing sites in 1993 exceeded 87-88 percent of the total emission into the atmosphere by all the stationary

sources in the city of Baku, and 70-71 percent in the republic. Because of the assimilation of the petroleum deposits, there has been an increase in the danger of contamination with carbon monoxide: considerable radioactivity in the bowels of the earth is carried out to the surface.

The route of the oil pipeline, part of which will travel across the territory of the republic, must be carefully planned with the purpose of reducing the harm inflicted on nature: the cutting down of the forests, the pollution of river runoffs, etc. It is necessary to reinforce legislatively the standards for screening the sheathing of the oil pipeline against radioactivity. In Alaska, for example, inspectors are still on the job, monitoring the route of the transcontinental oil pipeline, helping the fauna on the paths of their natural migration, keeping an eye on the vegetation, and eliminating technical problems.

It is extremely necessary to increase the activity rate of the ecological police in inspecting not only the exhaust gases from motor vehicles, but also from air transportation, ships, and diesel locomotives. It is necessary to set up at customs offices a protective barrier to prevent the importing of ecologically dangerous internal-combustion engines, turbojet, jet, screw, and other diesels. Increasing the oil-producing activities will cause a large flow of freight and passenger hauls. It is necessary to shut down the influx of old motor vehicles, buses, and airplanes that has been observed for several years, and the use of old ships and diesel locomotives that are moving sources of pollution. We are not rich enough to purchase with currency the transportation means that have undergone capital repair, and then to convert all of this suddenly into a dump heap or automobile graveyard. It is necessary to introduce high customs duties for this kind technology, or, even better, to refuse to import old technology into the republic.

It is high time to create national parks—not only with flora and fauna, but also with monuments of nature, caves, and mineral springs, which are abundant in our land. There are quite a few parks like this throughout the world. Perennial trees and bushes, and vegetation in general, are invaluable in improving the atmosphere. The planting of greenery in Baku that was begun as long ago as the 1950's yielded extremely positive results, preventing the conversion of Abseron into a desert. However, recently one has observed the unpunished chopping down of trees, for the purpose of building individual homes, garages, cooperatives, shops, etc. Actions like this cause irreparable harm to the purity of the Baku air. We are not opposed to individual construction, but everyone breathes the same air!

The joint extraction of hydrocarbon raw materials is foreseen not only on the Caspian shelf, but also on dry land. It is necessary to require our foreign partners to create on the territory of the oil fields microbotanical gardens, zoos, swimming pools, etc. In the middle and lower course of the Kura it is necessary to carry out large amounts of tree-planting operations with the involvement of broad groups of the public.

The drilling of deep wells and the building of deep-water concrete foundations will require a colossal amount of cement, and this will cause a buildup of the capacity of the Garadag Cement Plant, whose chimney already emits permanently into the atmosphere tremendous doses of mechanical suspensions, dust, and toxic substances. Powerful filters will be needed, to trap these substances and to create a closed technological cycle. It is necessary to involve in this work the Western specialists who have accumulated a large amount of experience in creating ecologically clean production sites.

We need health-resort zones with the use of the local natural and climatic conditions, particularly around Baku, Sumgait [Sumqayit], Alibayramla, Salyan, and Devich, that is, in the areas where the hydrocarbon deposits are concentrated.

The intensive operation of the deposits over a period of 20-30 years will cause the danger of an increase in the radioactive background: the methanization of the environment, the increase in the phenol concentration, and in general the hydrocarbon evaporation can cause irreversible processes if the atmosphere does not manage to purify itself: the technogenic and anthropogenic processes can predominate over the natural ones. Nature will harshly punish man for his poorly thought-out interference in the very delicate mechanism of nature's self-regulation. The density of the location of the deposits will aggravate the already strained ecological situation.

The problem is also linked with the droughts that will arise as a result of the evaporation of large quantities of hydrocarbons and will make it impossible to live close to the deposits. The increase in the presence of gas, the radioactivity, and the smell are already hampering the life of people living close to the powerful petroleum-distillation units of the ELOU AVT type. The reclaiming of casing-head gases from the wells and their separation during the petroleum distillation emit into the atmosphere millions of cubic meters of carbon dioxide. In this respect a compressor unit that deserves attention is the one made by the Pennzoil company, for compressing and transporting the gas from marine deposits to dry land. Something else that is needed is a waste-free cycle at petroleum-distilling plants, when separating the crude oil.

The oil boom is stimulating the petrochemical and chemical industry, the output of which will become necessary in petroleum management. It is economically unprofitable to bring in from long distances sulfanol, acid, or polymer and other materials when plants that produce those substances are situated locally. There will also be an increase in harmful emissions into the atmosphere from the enterprises in Sumgait. An ecological catastrophe? If professional, prompt forecasts are made concerning these processes, it is possible also to stipulate measures that prevent the destructive consequences of polluting the atmospheric stratum over the republic.

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Another question of no small importance is linked with the necessity of firefighting measures as a result of the new increase in the oil boom. The firefighting means for subduing gushers and for extinguishing fires must be modernized. It is also necessary to purchase new firefighting motorboats, to provide them with latest equipment, and to man their crews completely. The people of Baku do not have to borrow anyone's experience: after all, they have extinguished fires at oil fields in Siberia, the Far East, and Kuwait...

## KAZAKHSTAN

### Ecology of W. Kazakhstan Test Sites Assessed

MM1612143294 Moscow *RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA*  
in Russian 16 Dec 94 p 4

[Interview with Viktor Kiyanskiy, professor at the West Kazakhstan Agriculture Institute and chairman of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly Environment Commission, by correspondent Yuriy Kirinitsiyarov in Almaty; date not given: "The Range Takes Off Its Army Greatcoat. What Next?"—first two paragraphs are *RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA* introduction]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Alma-ata Almaty:—The Semipalatinsk test range.... So much has been said and written about it. It is much less widely known that tests of nuclear bombs and delivery systems were also carried out in West Kazakhstan, and that the consequences of these explosions have not been fully studied. Nor has the main question been decided: What are we to do with the former test ranges in future?

This is the subject of the dialogue between *RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA* correspondent Yuriy Kirinitsiyarov and Viktor Kiyanskiy, professor at the West Kazakhstan Agriculture Institute, deputy of the republic's Supreme Council, and chairman of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly Environment Commission. [passage omitted]

**Kiyanskiy:** A zone was mapped out between Guryev and Uralsk Oblasts—it stretched all the way from Russia, in the direction of Aktyubinsk. Here tests of aircraft and missile technology were conducted, and several nuclear explosions were also carried out in this region. And the research was of a rather different nature than that in, say, Semipalatinsk. Here they were studying the means of delivery of nuclear weapons—aircraft and missiles. Launches took place from "Kapustin Yar"—this test range is now fairly widely known. The airmen were based in the city of Aktyubinsk, and they flew along special corridors toward Balkhash. [passage omitted]

**Kirinitsiyarov:** A lot of rumors have sprung up around the test range—as always happens when there is an information vacuum.

**Kiyanskiy:** And that is why we scientists decided to take on the difficult mission of separating truth from conjecture. The vast majority of the explosions were carried out

in the atmosphere, and it was hard to imagine that a large area was contaminated with radioactive waste [sentence as published]. I myself took part in two expeditions. We traveled around virtually the entire territory of the range in cars. The expedition had dosimetric apparatus and mobile chemical laboratories.

**Kirinitsiyarov:** And you had no problems getting permission for the research?

**Kiyanskiy:** No, much has changed nowadays. We met with the military, and they talked quite freely with us and let us go practically anywhere we wanted to make analyses. We went to the former bomb shelters and inside the fissures that formed after the explosions.

**Kirinitsiyarov:** Can we clarify, were these Russia's or Kazakhstan's [military] units?

**Kiyanskiy:** I asked this question specifically—the troops are under joint command. The officers and men have taken the oath to both Yeltsin and Nazarbayev.

**Kirinitsiyarov:** You said there were two expeditions....

**Kiyanskiy:** Yes, the second time an aerial survey was carried out by helicopter. No dramatic levels of radioactive fallout were recorded, so our assumptions were basically confirmed.

**Kirinitsiyarov:** But that was in the air. What about the people?

**Kiyanskiy:** Our gamma device was able to determine the accumulation of radionuclides in a human organism over the person's entire life. It is a new device, we acquired it only recently. It is equipped with a computer, so that mistakes in calculations are ruled out. More than 400 people were studied. In no case did we find a dangerous level of radionuclides, or even a dangerous background excess [opasnogo fona prevysheniya ikh].

**Kirinitsiyarov:** So there are no grounds for concern?

**Kiyanskiy:** Yes, there are, and very substantial grounds. We found serious chemical pollution—of both water and soil. In West Kazakhstan Oblast there are the salt marshes of Khaki-sor. They stretch for more than 60 km. It is like the dying Aral Sea. And it was here that we found a significant excess of heavy metals—they are not encountered in natural salt systems—cadmium, lead.

The remnants of missiles and aircraft were clearly visible from the helicopter. They are breaking up and dissolving in the water. And they accumulate over the years, that is the dangerous thing. The saiga [kind of antelope] traditionally graze around Khaki-sor. Naturally, they fall ill. The saiga herd is degenerating. People live there too. Of course, they don't drink water from the lake. But the probability is that the underground water in the area will also become polluted. This is a lengthy process, and is poorly monitored.

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**Kirinitsiyanov:** But how are things going, in what was formerly a single test range but is now divided by a state border?

**Kiyanskiy:** The volume of scientific research has been reduced drastically. That is to some extent understandable. Conversion is in progress. Moreover Russia can no longer afford to maintain this test range. And it is seeking ways to reduce its expenditure. I was told the following figure, for instance: Appropriations for research into military aviation technology have been reduced approximately fivefold compared with 1989. To a considerable extent, also, it is because there is pressure from the "greens." The public's impatience not infrequently borders on the ridiculous: Drive everyone out immediately, blow up the equipment.

I believe a more considered approach is needed. After all, this complex possesses unique apparatus, making it possible to conduct a very broad spectrum of observations simultaneously, and not only in a military context. The whole world is doing this, improving its aircraft, missiles, antisatellite systems. But we are going our own way in this too.

**Kirinitsiyanov:** It is rather odd to hear an ecologist professor speak in defense of the military-industrial complex.

**Kiyanskiy:** No, I'm not defending the military-industrial complex, just common sense! It is very easy to act as in Semipalatinsk: close it first, then speculate about what can be done. I believe our attitude to test ranges must change. Incidentally, this could be a very substantial item in the state's income—to take a long-term view. Of course we do not need the monster test range in the form in which it existed before. An inventory should be compiled of everything that is there. After all, the test range in West Kazakhstan had dual-purpose technology: an observation station, navigation equipment. At the Suyunduk test range (which forms part of the integrated system controlled from "Kapustin Yar") I saw five autonomous camps [gorodkov] for different kinds of work. They possess fairly powerful electricity stations, housing, storehouses—you will not see the like in the whole of Urdinskiy Rayon.

**Kirinitsiyanov:** I can imagine the state they are in now....

**Kiyanskiy:** No, where the military are still present the state of the camps is just as it should be (that is four out of the five), but of course, where the military have left, things are not in good shape. But what can you expect, it is the heart that pumps the blood around.... The frames have been ripped out of the housing, all the equipment that was not removed has been stripped down. The optical mirrors have been smashed. Yet these were unique instruments making it possible to see the expression on a pilot's face at an altitude of 10,000 meters. Surely some "civilian" use could have been found for these instruments. [passage omitted]

Again I repeat: We cannot get by without a large-scale inventory of the military ranges. If they are not suitable for military purposes, and if they are not contaminated, then we should be bold and hand them over to agriculture. And I think some quite good private farms could be made there. In Suyunduk again, I was told, even in the old days the military allowed local inhabitants to graze their flocks there—when there were no tests. There are no "chemicals" here, they fired ordinary metal dummies. What harm could come from them?... Maybe the greater part of the land could be given over to reserves. To see how the "dirt" left by the military resolves itself with time. Incidentally, the former military zones include sectors of virgin steppe the like of which you cannot find in Kazakhstan now, search as you may.

Parliament recently discussed the treaty on military cooperation between Kazakhstan and Russia. Our parliament ratified it virtually unanimously. I put this question to the deputy defense minister who presented the draft treaty: How is it proposed to carry out the burial of radioactive and chemical waste at the military test ranges? It seems that a special agreement is to stipulate a mechanism for resolving these questions so as to rule out contamination of the environment. But the agreement itself still has to be drawn up by experts. I also wanted to know how recultivation work will be carried out. I specified: "...only in the event that accidents occur after the signing of the agreement?" "No," the general replied, "all past instances of pollution will also come under the treaty."

**Kirinitsiyanov:** Please tell me about the work of the Interparliamentary Assembly Environment Commission, which you chair....

**Kiyanskiy:** Our commission, in conjunction with the Interstate Ecological Council of the CIS states, put forward the initiative to hold an international conference on the ecological problems of the Commonwealth states in 1995. The need for this is obvious. Especially in terms of legislation, a mechanism for compensation for ecological damage due to trans-border shipments of harmful substances and the use of military test ranges (like in West Kazakhstan). We believe that discussions among scientists and parliamentarians from various countries will help to identify the priority areas of activity and enable us to sign agreements in the sphere of environmental conservation—for ratification by the Commonwealth countries' parliaments. The [Interparliamentary] Assembly Council approved our proposal and adopted a decision to hold the conference in St. Petersburg in March 1995 under the Interparliamentary Assembly's auspices.

In addition, a model law "On Safety in the Use of Chemicals in Production" was included on the Assembly's agenda on our commission's initiative. The point is that several hundred thousand different chemicals and combinations of them are now produced in the world and used in virtually all spheres of human activity. Yet

many of them represent a serious danger to children's health and the environment. At the same time the procedure for handling these substances in the Commonwealth countries is laid down only at the level of statutory instruments and normative and technical documentation, which leads to serious consequences in various sectors of industry and agriculture.

In many foreign states special laws have been adopted and are in force in this sphere. In June 1990 the International Labor Organization adopted a safety blueprint for the use of chemicals in production. However, this convention has unfortunately not yet been ratified by any of the Commonwealth states. The law we have drawn up will plug this gap.

The Kazakhstan delegation included in the Interparliamentary Assembly's work plan for next year questions of the ecology of military test ranges, inland water sources, and trans-border shipments of harmful substances.

## KYRGYZSTAN

### Radiation Monitoring Equipment Installed on Border with PRC

*LD0101113295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0410 GMT 1 Jan 95*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Manayav]

[FBIS Summary] Bishkek, 1 Jan—A radiometric monitoring equipment developed by the Kyrgyz Gera scientific-production association and capable of registering even the slightest deviation of the radiation background from the norm has been installed at the Torugart checkpoint on the Kyrgyz-Chinese border. Specialists claim this will help to create a barrier in the way of traces from nuclear tests at Lop-Nur in China "spreading." In future such equipment will be installed at Manas airport and a second Kyrgyz-Chinese border checkpoint at Sary-Tash.

## UKRAINE

### President Decrees New Nuclear Safety Ministry

*LD1612164294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1556 GMT 16 Dec 94*

[UKRINFORM news agency for TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev December 16—A Ministry for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety has been formed in Ukraine by a presidential decree to replace the Ministry for Environmental Protection and the State Committee on Nuclear and Radiation Safety.

The ministry has been set up to upgrade the framework for safe use of nuclear power and radiation technologies and materials.

### Accord Signed With Germany on Studying Chernobyl Aftermath

*LD0101114495 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 1 Jan 95*

[FBIS Summary] Ukraine and Germany have concluded an agreement providing for the two countries' specialists to jointly study the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear power station accident from space. Territory covering an area of 3,000 square kilometers to the south of Chernobyl will be the subject of the study.

### Project To Treat Oil-Contaminated Soil Viewed

*WS2712080094 Kiev URYADOV VY KURYER in Ukrainian 15 Dec 94 p 12*

[Article by Viktoriya Vlasenko: "In and Around Uzyn"—first paragraph is URYADOV VY KURYER introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Man has learned to produce synthetic food, fabrics, and various—unknown to nature—materials, as well as create artificial water reservoirs and landscapes over a relatively short period of time. Not all things, however, that are the result of man's activity, are beneficial for us. This refers to the so-called artificial "deposits" of oil products, which—all in all—are a result of our notorious social mismanagement, because they developed under petrol and oil yards and warehouses of military-industrial complexes. Officials, who were responsible for such things, felt—due to the classified nature of their work and the realization of their impunity—that they were above the law; so they filled underground reservoirs with hundreds of thousands of tonnes of oil products, or simply dumped oil onto the ground.

According to preliminary estimates, there are over 40 such sites in Ukraine. The amount of squandered oil products stands at some 1 million tonnes. Pay attention, please, to the fact that I am referring not to crude oil, but to refined oil products. This is, however, only one aspect of the matter. The most important is that such artificial "deposits" seriously threaten our environment, because oil products—floating on the surface of subterranean water—flow along with subterranean streams, contaminating both the soil and subterranean water. The contaminated area around such sites can stretch for several dozen square kilometers. To conduct a series of critical measures related to the decontamination of soil and water, that is, to conduct preliminary research, such as drilling and geophysical and hydrogeological research, considerable funds are needed, because only after this work is complete, will it be possible to specify the location and size of such oil-product "deposits," and define opportunities to extract them, treat subterranean water, and rid the environment in general from oil products. It is difficult to find such funds in our budget, which is, mildly speaking, not overflowing with money; in addition, this process has been going on for too long,

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while we should act as quickly as we can. This is the case when the attraction of private capital—which will naturally be invested in the most promising sites—is a perfect resolution to the issue of environmental contamination. Therefore, we should not think that such investments could result in fabulous profits, because the risk factor in the development of such "deposits" is high and it is practically impossible to foresee all consequences.

The small town of Uzyn in Belaya Tserkov Rayon of Kiev Oblast—to be exact, not Uzyn itself, but its airbase and military depots of fuel and lubricants [PMM]—has become the center of ardent discussions between several ministries, departments, and the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers. One such technogenic [tekhnohennyi] "deposit" of oil products is located there. The total area of contaminated soil and subterranean streams covers over 50 square km, while the concentration of oil products in wells exceeds so-called upper admissible levels of oil concentration by several dozen times. At specific sites, in particular, where military depots of PMM are located, the diameter of an oil spill in wells is between 1.5 and 2 meters. In addition, there are zones of increased penetration [zona pidvyshchenoho pronyk-nennya] in contaminated areas. When oil products, along with subterranean streams, flow through such zones, they tend to flow southward, toward the Ros River. The contamination of this important water artery implies an environmental catastrophe for many regions and oblasts in Ukraine.

When the people in several villages, located around Uzyn, began to extract petrol instead of water from their wells, alarm signals were first to reach organizations dealing with environmental protection. Due to the fact that the state lacks funds to carry out such a large-scale environmental program, an idea—to attract entrepreneurial structures, which could handle the required treatment at their own expense and receive extracted oil products as compensation for their expenditures—emerged. This idea, by the way, corresponds with the edict issued by the Ukrainian president regarding technogenic "deposits" and favorable taxation. The "Ukrainian Land Company," a closed joint-stock company which studies analogous experience from abroad and Russia, was among the first to respond to such a proposal. According to Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 191-R—covering the liquidation of contamination of subterranean streams in the town of Uzyn in Belaya Tserkov Rayon of Kiev Oblast—and the consent of the State Department of Environmental Protection, the oblast and rayon authorities, the Oblast Office of Water Resources, and the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, as well as on the basis of the license issued by the State Geological Committee, the "Ukrainian Land Company" has conducted geological surveying and prospecting, as well as research on extracting in the region of Uzyn. Some 200 cubic meters of oil products have been extracted and some 100,000 square meters of land have been treated at the location of another PMM depot over eight months, when initial attempts to extract oil were made. Based on

that surveying and extracting experience, the technology for geological surveying, prospecting, extracting, and treating of oil products has been developed. The equipment to extract oil products from subterranean streams, as well as to treat deep subterranean streams is being produced. The next stages of related work in Uzyn have also been specified. This work includes three primary directions: a preliminary estimation of oil product reserves and opportunities to extract and protect them, and the development of technology to treat subterranean streams. This project will be implemented within two years, including 1995.

We have now approached the essence of the matter. According to various estimates, the total amount of oil product reserves in the Uzyn technogenic "deposit" stands at between 50,000 and 100,000 tonnes. Some 30 percent of this total oil deposit—for which the world price is between \$1 million and \$2 million—can be extracted and utilized. If we take into consideration the need to further treat the oil products which are being extracted, as well as the opportunity to sell them only on the domestic market, this resulting sum will be lower, standing at between \$1 million and \$1.5 million. According to the "Ukrvodproyekt" Institute, expenditures covering the study and preparation of the construction site will amount to 40 billion karbovanetses [K], or \$1 million in spring 1994 prices. Taking into consideration the fact that the design and construction of this treatment facility will require no less than \$500,000-700,000 in capital expenditures, with an additional \$100,000 in annual operating costs, experts from the State Committee for Oil and Gas believe that the state will make no profits from this facility. Estimates by the "Ukrainian Land Company" as to the cost of the project—from preliminary surveying of "deposits" to protecting them—amount to some K3 billion [as published]! If we compare these two figures and take into consideration the fact that the quality and promptness of work conducted by the "Ukrainian Land Company" will be rather high (this is important in the time of a critical environmental situation in Uzyn), we could believe that there are no objections as to the expediency of authorizing the above-mentioned company the right to develop the technogenic "deposit" in Uzyn. When we analyze this issue proceeding from the rules of common sense, it seems easy to us. As is known, common sense does not always prevail in our state. Despite the legal nature of its activities, the "Ukrainian Land Company" meets active resistance from various state bodies. Of course, it turns out that the Uzyn project smells of budget billions! The leadership of the "Ukrvodproyekt" Institute (I will remind you of its estimates, according to which the cost of the project in Uzyn stands at some \$1 million), along with a few officials from the Ministry of Environmental Protection, are striving to convince and interest the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers in financing this project from the budget, because, as the Vietnamese saying says, when a man is handing over butter to someone else, he hopes that some butter will remain on

his hands. We are again witnessing undisguised attempts, conducted by a variety of bodies—how many times can they do this!—which are close to the powers-that-be, to secure a profit at the expense of the state. It is all the same for them that their activities could lead to a catastrophe. How could such an absurd situation—to draw considerable funds out of a miserable state budget to finance the project in Uzyn, while the "Ukrainian Land Company" proposes that this work be done at its own expense, in a shorter amount of time, and with a higher level of quality—be explained?!

**Toxic Chemical Pollution Belies 'Clean' Poltava Reputation**

MM2212113194 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN  
in Russian 22 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Les Kosychenko: "Don't Drink From the Well"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The view that Poltava Oblast is the most environmentally clean oblast in Ukraine has become firmly established. Unfortunately, the facts quoted at the latest session of the oblast soviet show that this is by no means the case.

There are more than 800 tonnes of banned and unusable toxic chemicals in the oblast. They ought to be recycled and made safe. But it is virtually impossible to solve this problem, because the toxic chemicals have currently been dumped in a single pile.

We would add that on more than 60 farms there are no storage facilities for toxic chemicals, and 140 kolkhozes and sovkhozes store them out in the open, which results in constant contamination of the soil, air, and groundwater. Consequently, there is not a single village in the Poltava area where well water does not contain nitrates. And in many villages near Kremenchug, Mirgorod, Piryatin, and Grebenka, well water is unfit for human consumption. The session instructed the industrial enterprises responsible for this pollution to install pipelines carrying pure drinking water to these population centers as quickly as possible.

**Kuchma Amalgamates Two Departments in Single Ministry**

AU2212115694 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA  
in Ukrainian 20 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by the DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA news service: "A New Name for the Ecological Department"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In order to further improve the system of environmental protection and safe utilization of nuclear energy and radiation technologies and substances, the Ukrainian president has resolved by his edict to create the Ministry for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety on the basis of Ukraine's Ministry of Environmental Protection and Ukraine's State Committee for Nuclear and Radiation Safety, which are abolished.



## REGIONAL AFFAIRS

**Minister Merkel Sees Chances for EU-Wide Energy Tax***AU1612074294 Duesseldorf HANDELSBLATT  
in German 15 Dec 94 p 3*

["er"-initialed report: "Environment Council Seeking Horizon for Climate Tax"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Bonn, 14 December 1994—The environment ministers of the European Union [EU] have been arguing and discussing the recommendations to introduce a carbon-dioxide/energy tax in Europe for a long time. Mrs. Merkel hopes that now the chance has come to adopt a joint (minimal) concept as recommendation to the responsible council of finance ministers (Ecofin).

Merkel stated that the environment ministers now understand that the objective pursued by the community, namely to stabilize the greenhouse gas emissions at the 1990 level up to the year 2000, can be implemented. The reason is that this EU objective includes the option for a 15-percent increase in carbon-dioxide emissions by the year 2000. Therefore, the environment ministers believe that the planned reduction in greenhouse gas emissions can be achieved only if this goal is supported by tax measures.

However, on Tuesday [13 December], Mrs. Merkel admitted that in the Environment Council, the EU representatives have not yet agreed on how to configure and program this measure. Yet, a paper that should be supported by consensus lies on the negotiating table in Brussels, over which Germany will preside for the last time. The basic points of the recommendation are: Dynamic tax regulations should include oil, coal, gas, and electricity. "Transitory regulations" should be formulated for countries which, due to "specific social and economic situations" see themselves unable to immediately participate in a community-wide introduction of a carbon-dioxide tax.

The minister would not comment on the argument that these transitory regulations are boiling down to installing a "core Europe in the sphere of climate protection." The Christian Democratic Union official who will also participate in the ongoing budget debate in Bonn, and will therefore partly be represented by State Secretary Clemens Stroetmann, pointed to the coalition agreement which explicitly provides for the community-wide introduction of this tax, which has been high on the agenda for many years.

With regard to the Karlsruhe court ruling on coal subsidies, the new environment minister sees the Federal Government in a "field of tension." The new German financing of hard coal should, under all circumstances, include a "carbon-dioxide element." A pure electricity tax is "certainly not the most imaginative solution."

Yet, the Environment Council will not only deal with the "carbon-dioxide energy tax" but, against the background of the Rio follow-up conference in Berlin at the end of March 1995, also with a package of EU measures for climate protection. In line with the motto "even small sinners can also cause great harm," the ministers might want to present a recommendation on energy efficiency standards for electrical appliances, the promotion of regenerative energy sources, the increased use of combined power/heating plants, and the gradual introduction of the five-liter car in Europe.

In the area of transport it is planned to enforce a benzene reduction in gasoline and to limit aircraft nitrogen oxide emissions. The agenda also includes an issue that has been discussed for a long time: The environment ministers are planning to abolish tax concessions for kerosene. Here too, the final decision will lie with the finance ministers. [passage omitted]

## FRANCE

**Balladur Outlines Main Points of Energy Policy***BR1612152794 Paris LE FIGARO in French 16 Dec 94 p 5*

[Report by Edouard Thevenon: "Edouard Balladur Defines His Energy Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The so-called "national debate on energy and the environment," launched with great pomp by three ministers last spring, reached its apotheosis yesterday in the National Assembly. Not in the chamber itself, but rather within the more modest setting of a colloquium organized under the aegis of the COURRIER DE PARLEMENT. Jean-Pierre Souviron, the author of a report that was supposed to serve as a basis for discussion, will probably have regarded this as further proof of the lack of "transparency" surrounding any decisions made in this sector. [passage omitted]

Mr. Balladur, who spoke about the national energy policy in public for the first time, indicated that his Government would make its first actual decisions "three months from now" and he latched on to "three main areas" featured in the proposals tabled by Mr. Souviron: the relaunch of energy savings, the promotion of renewable energies, and the decentralization of decisionmaking. [passage omitted]

**Atomic Energy Commission's Nuclear Cleanup Budget Viewed***BR1912152994 Paris LA TRIBUNE DESFOSES  
in French 15 Dec 94 p 15*

[Unattributed report: "Atomic Energy Commission: Almost 3 Billion Francs To Clean Up Polluted Sites"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The first status report for the directorate in charge of waste management in the Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), France's third largest producer of radioactive waste after EDF [Electricity of France] and Cogema, stipulated: "The CEA

began to seriously consider its waste in 1989. It then worked out, in 1991 and 1992, a plan for cleaning up its civilian power plants," states Robert Lallement, an official of the Waste Management Directorate (DGD). The plan was completed in 1993, by taking into consideration former waste deposits, possibilities for reprocessing at Marcoule (Gard), "idle fuels" (100 tonnes accumulated over 40 years), and future dismantling of facilities. The CEA has an average of 400 million francs a year to clean up its civilian power plants, in addition to the 200 million set aside for current waste management. This financing is mainly assured by the convention signed in 1993 by the CEA with EDF and Cogema.

#### Environment Minister Outlines Priorities

BR1912152694 Paris LES ECHOS in French 15 Dec 94 p 7

[Interview with French Environment Minister Michel Barnier by Anne Bauer and Jean-Francois Polo; place and date not given: "Michel Barnier: France Must Create a Renewable Energy Industry for Itself"—first paragraph is LES ECHOS introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The debate to be held today at the National Assembly, chaired by Edouard Balladur, marks a pause in the assessment of energy and the environment under way since last spring under the direction of Jean-Pierre Souviron. In an interview with LES ECHOS, Michel Barnier notes that he does not want to see the proposals of the Souviron report buried, neither those on the transparency of public policies nor those on controlling energy consumption. These themes are in the environmental protection law just adopted by the deputies. The minister, who expresses openly his pro-Balladur feelings, also wants ecological concerns to be generally present in the presidential campaign.

**LES ECHOS:** What should we expect from today's debate?

**Barnier:** It is the end—not of the national debate on energy—but of one of its major stages. For the first time in 15 or 20 years, there has been a genuine debate, dozens of colloquia and meetings. Jean-Pierre Souviron and his small team have conducted this debate in a professional and open manner. This is evident in the report which they submitted to us. It is a disturbing report, which is neither technocratic nor timid. My opinion is that yet several additional debates will be needed in parliament based on draft bills. This is all regarding the method.

**LES ECHOS:** What are the points in the Souviron report which you feel could serve as the basis for a new policy?

**Barnier:** The first point of a new energy policy is transparency and democracy. We are entering a new era in which consumers and citizens must be respected, consulted, and informed. It is not normal that energy is discussed at the national level only every 20 years.

Progress is also possible in transparency regarding the nuclear cycle. The silence which has surrounded nuclear power for 20 years must be ended. This, in fact, is what Jean-Pierre Souviron proposes, with the idea of a strategic plan for the downstream portion of the cycle, namely the dismantling of power plants. We must make up for many years of lack of foresight. I hope that this debate will result in a law on nuclear safety, inspired by some of the proposals of Deputy Claude Birraux and the Parliamentary Office for Scientific and Technical Choices.

**LES ECHOS:** The Souviron report advocates greater use of renewable energies...

**Barnier:** That is the report's second strong point. I believe that France would be very wrong if it did not create a technology and an industry in the area of renewable energies. I note that the Germans, the Americans, and the Japanese, who are not naive, are not waiting for markets in the East or the South, notably for solar energy. The design offices, research institutes, and new industries in this field must be supported. Better than we did in the past, because of EDF's [Electricity of France] total power in France.

**LES ECHOS:** Is energy conservation still on the agenda?

**Barnier:** Gasoline is inexpensive, but it will not stay at that price forever. There is no reason to not conserve energy. There are unused "energy reserves," in public buildings, housing, industry, household consumption. The money which EDF spends on its campaigns for nuclear power would undoubtedly be better spent on education to tell people to consume less and to explain to them how to do so. Local governments have a large role to play here.

We are also not far from a major debate on means of transport, which the next president of the Republic will not escape. In terms of regional planning, this is a major debate. I sense a rather strong evolution within the government bureaucracy in favor of combined transport, and later on in favor of rail freeway projects under the Alps and the Pyrenees. The idea is making progress, within the administration and even among some road haulers, that there are some places which are blocked or will be blocked.

**LES ECHOS:** What lessons do you draw from the recent debate on the environmental law in the National Assembly?

**Barnier:** It was a very open and constructive debate. By the majority, but also by the opposition, which in the end abstained. That is rare these days! I wanted to make applicable the texts already adopted, to improve them on certain points. But most importantly, this is the first comprehensive text in the environmental field. All of its measures refer to the need for transparency and democracy.

**LES ECHOS:** In your opinion, which of these are most important?

**Barnier:** When I see the arguments, blockages, and controversy surrounding the Somport tunnel or the Mediterranean TGV [high-speed train], it is clear that a neutral place for discussion is needed. The creation of the National Public Debate Commission, which will be consulted on major infrastructure issues, meets this objective. The same is true of the departmental Environment Councils. The law also contains a significant advance against major risks by the creation of a right of expropriation in case of imminent risks.

Another novel provision is the unification of town planning tools which in five years will give the 2,000 most exposed communes of France a risk prevention plan which will be mandatory in the POS [land-use plan]. It is a new philosophy, not one of regional development but of regional "management."

Finally, in the area of landscapes, three important items were adopted: Prohibition against construction within 100 meters on each side of major roads at city boundaries; the requirement to bury all electric power or telephone lines in national parks, wildlife reserves, and registered sites as of now, and starting in the year 2000 in densely populated areas for low and medium tension power lines; and prior announcement of the installation of billboards. If there is a sufficiently long extraordinary session in January, this bill will definitely be adopted before the presidential election.

**LES ECHOS:** Does your amendment on special industrial waste not signify a defeat for a contract approach in favor of a regulatory procedure?

**Barnier:** I do not want to take issue with the Companies for the Environment association, whose activity should continue. But this contract method has clearly demonstrated its limits. The association had difficulty collecting some 15 million French francs [Fr] per year. For the treatment of the most urgent abandoned sites, we absolutely need about Fr100 million per year. **LES ECHOS:** Are you not afraid of a negative reaction from manufacturers?

**Barnier:** Without a doubt this involves an added cost, but it is not a significant one if it makes it possible to avoid a catastrophe such as contamination of water tables, which would threaten public health. I believe in prevention.

**LES ECHOS:** On Tuesday [13 December], you presented a list of polluted French sites. How are you treating them?

**Barnier:** One must understand and know before acting. We worked for one and a half years under the responsibility of chairmen of urban councils, by identifying the typology of sites, their technical situation, the sources of pollution. I want to maintain a list of these sites now that they are known. We must also keep searching, because

there are other sites which are still unknown. We will discover others. We will work with manufacturers under an overall, more ambitious policy. We will try to move forward the idea that this decontamination should be a mutual effort. I will need several months to do this. To work with companies, associations, legal experts, and insurance companies.

**LES ECHOS:** By sharply raising taxes on household waste, are you not concerned that users will grow tired?

**Barnier:** The modest tax increase has two aims: To deter, and to create funds which will be redistributed by the Ademe [Agency for the Environment and Energy Management] to help local governments invest in equipment for treating and incinerating household waste. And we must keep this in perspective: Fr25 per tonne represents Fr7 per year per person.

**LES ECHOS:** Local taxation has already increased sharply...

**Barnier:** Yes, that is true. This forces local governments to make budgetary choices, perhaps slightly fewer roads and slightly more environment options. That is why I want the environment and the larger questions of sustainable development to be at the center of the presidential debate. And moreover, "consumer citizens" are capable of understanding and accepting certain costs provided they are told the truth. What is intolerable, is secrecy: That people cannot read their water bill, or that water pays for something other than water. The National Assembly has just put an end to this practice of the "entry ticket."

I will also ask communes to discuss a mandatory and public annual report on the qualitative and constituent elements of the price of water, sanitation, and waste.

**LES ECHOS:** A summit of environmental ministers will be taking place in Brussels today and tomorrow. Can we expect progress?

**Barnier:** First of all, I am very satisfied that the directive on waste packaging management was adopted yesterday. We fought for this text for two years, to defend an intermediate position between the minimalists and the maximalists. It is a realistic directive. It avoids the hypocrisy which would have limited, under an environmental pretext, the free movement of goods, especially agricultural foodstuffs, through legislation on packaging materials. Its economic stake is substantial. And it does not create too much of a hierarchy of the modalities of treatment of packaging, leaving to each person the possibility to choose the best methods.

We will certainly discuss the ecotax in Brussels. This item is very important in combating gas emissions with a greenhouse effect and in respecting the commitments made at Rio de Janeiro. But it is also very difficult, in particular because of Great Britain's opposition to any European tax. Last July the finance ministers favorably received the memorandum submitted by France, the



suggestion of which was not to create a new tax, as the Commission proposed, but to gradually raise existing taxes in a harmonized Community framework. While making sure to preserve the competitiveness of our economy. I hope that we will reach unanimous conclusions at the Council.

At any rate, we must succeed in adopting the directives on gasoline fume emissions, protection of the ozone layer, imports and exports of hazardous chemical products, and incineration of hazardous waste.

**LES ECHOS:** What topics will you defend in Brussels during the French presidency?

**Barnier:** I would like to conclude the discussions on integrated prevention of pollution emitted by facilities which present risks for the environment. Progress needs to be made on texts on improvement of the ambient air quality in all European urban areas, and on the ecological quality of water. A Community strategy is needed to combat climate changes, particularly in view of the March 1995 Climate Convention. Finally, I would also like to promote the idea of protecting the Mediterranean coastline, by creating a Mediterranean coastline conservation mechanism, along the lines of the French conservancy.

**LES ECHOS:** Do you have the feeling of being helped by ecologists?

**Barnier:** In fact, I had fears that their weakening, due to the economic crisis, would relegate the environment to the background. But the prime minister has always been personally concerned with this sector. As a result, the ministry's budget will rise by 6.7 percent in 1995. In fact, the battle will be won when all politicians work for the environment. What good does it do to have 10 percent of French politicians being convinced ecologists if the others are hostile to it? I would prefer to see 100 percent of the politicians take a 10-percent interest in ecology.

**LES ECHOS:** In your book "Toward An Unknown Sea," why do you advocate the four-day work week?

**Barnier:** Given the exclusion of 3 million persons from work and society, and the overloading of others, who sometimes have very high incomes but no longer have the time to live, a debate must be undertaken on reduction of the weekly work time including salary adjustments. The Giraud Law marks an opening in this direction, but one which is too limited in time. It must be made definitive, so that negotiations can be started in each company individually.

I have the feeling of being somewhat alone on this idea within the majority. For the time being. But this new development model must be built up.

**LES ECHOS:** You have clearly voiced your support to Edouard Balladur for the next presidential election...

**Barnier:** In fact, I hope that Edouard Balladur will decide to be a candidate for the presidency of the Republic at the beginning of next year. He has the ability, and what

he started in 1993 must be not only extended but amplified; moreover, he must have more freedom than during the period of cohabitation. Reforms, major reforms, are necessary, without tragedy and without discontinuity. Edouard Balladur is the person best able to pursue this modernization of our country, and first of all to rally the largest number of French citizens around a single project.

## GERMANY

### Climate Conference Problematic for New Minister

95EN0047C Hamburg *DIE WELT* in German  
22 Nov 94 p 13

[Commentary by Heinz Heck: "What Now, Frau Merkel?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] To the Environment Conference in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the German Government delegation traveled with the absolutely firm resolution to lower the CO<sub>2</sub>-emission by 25-30 percent by the year 2005 compared to 1987. When in the spring of 1995 the first follow-up conference (Rio 2) takes place in Berlin, the host Germany—so the increasing apprehension—will be empty-handed: With the reduction tempo up to now, especially in the old federal laender, the attainment of this ambitious goal is extremely unlikely.

Still worse. The discussion of instruments up to now obeys the management of potatoes: Get in and get out again quickly. The CDU party convention in February demanded the introduction of the CO<sub>2</sub>-energy tax, in the August CDU "government program" it no longer took place, in order now to celebrate resurrection again ("urgently necessary"). Not a clear cue for the German economy. In the European Union the requisite unanimous regulation, moreover, does not have a chance.

The new lady minister for environment has the not simple task to show "something" in the spring in Berlin. According to previous experience, this constellation promises nothing good. Why does the conglobate expert knowledge on climate policy, for a change, not come up with the idea of a market economy solution and diminish CO<sub>2</sub> where this is cheapest? For example, in the Third World, where rational energy consumption is not only a foreign idea, but the requisite investments, on top of that, are priceless. Targeted investments of the industrial countries there would result in the most lasting impetus to development.

### Bonn Goes on Environmental Offensive

95EN0041A Duesseldorf *WIRTSCHAFTSWOCHE* in German 17 Nov 94 pp 14-16

[Article by Martin Kessler: "Old Fronts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After years of idleness, coalition ecologists are again going gallantly on the offensive. The Union and the FDP [Free Democratic Party of Germany] are eyeing voters who have gone over to the Greens.



**Crazy world:** There was a time when Bavaria took pride in its brisk environmental policy, and in Bonn FDP Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt inhibited ecological advances of any kind. But as soon as voters began to turn away from the liberals, party leaders changed their policy. At the start of coalition negotiations, FDP Leader Klaus Kinkel revealed as his motto: "We must begin to improve our environmental protection image." Result: Old Environmental Minister Klaus Toepfer, together with the negotiators for the liberals, Guenter Rexrodt and the young FDP delegate Birgit Homburger, prevailed over the restrictive CSU [Christian Social Union] across a wide front.

While the coalition partners achieved only mild compromises in the main areas of economy, finance, and internal security, the government is planning to return to the offensive in the area of environmental protection in the coming four years. It has resolved to do several things.

- To drastically reduce the benzol content in gasoline.
- To require new automobiles to consume an average of one-third less gasoline than current models do, by the year 2005.
- To substantially increase the share of old automobiles, electronics scrap, and used batteries that are recycled, via ordinances regarding abandonment or company responsibility.
- To slow unchecked surface use in the Federal Republic with a new soil conservation law and a revamped nature conservation law.

Primarily, however, liberal and Union environmental politicians are pushing for the further ecological development of the state tax system. Eco-taxes, as they are referred to in a new internal position paper from the federal minister of economics, "must have a positive controlling function." Those inflicting damage on the environment should be required to either "pay or reduce the amount of ecological damage they are inflicting."

For some time now, even in the economic wings of the FDP and the Union, the word has been that while environmental protection measures do place a burden upon many branches of industry, at the same time they permit the creation of thousands of new firms which, as manufacturers of environmental technology, profit directly from more intense regulations.

The market for environmental goods in Germany has been growing by six to eight percent annually, and in the world trade of green products the Federal Republic remains in the lead with a 21-percent share of the market and an export value of 35 billion German marks [DM]. Research institutes such as the German Institute for Economic Research in Berlin and the Rhenish-Westphalian Institute for Economic Research in Essen estimate that by the year 2000 over one million people will be employed in the environmental industry.

Clearly the liberals and Christian Democrats are not willing to surrender the new eco-businesses to the

Greens. Alternative business associations such as the Association of Ecologically Oriented Firms and the Green-Businesses are already boasting hundreds of members.

At any rate the old fronts no longer remain valid. Take for example the eco-tax: No-nonsense ecologists like Atmospheric Researcher Ernst-Ulrich von Weizsaecker from the Wuppertal Institute for Atmosphere, Environment, and Energy, are already satisfied with a moderate but continuously increasing energy tax. In contrast, firms and managers such as Otto-Shipping of Hamburg or Reiner Koenig, spokesman for AEG's household products division, have recently become enthused over ecological tax reform. Even the president of the Federal Association of German Industry (BDI), Tyll Necker, has cautiously renounced fundamental opposition to higher taxes on the consumption of resources.

In the coming week, the departing BDI head will again be doing his best to present all arguments against environmental taxes in the presentation of the Association study "Changing Course With Eco-Taxes." In truth, however, Necker the realist would be willing to accept a higher tax rate on energy consumption as long as production were to remain exempt.

But the coalition has not come quite so far. For as much as ecologists in Bonn are pressing for environmental taxes: There still is no concrete design for an ecological tax system. The only attempt made thus far, the Brussels EU Commission proposal for a Europe-wide CO<sub>2</sub> energy tax, cannot be implemented in the partner countries at this time.

The opposition in Brussels is not inconvenient for the energy intensive branches of industry. Thus the BDI has calculated in its eco-study that with continuous increases in energy prices of 7 percent per year, in 15 years the chemicals industry would have to cope with an increase in costs of DM23 billion. And the considerably smaller non-metallic minerals industry will have to shell out almost 2 billion marks more in only ten years. This dampens the willingness to institute tax reform, even for some of those in Bonn.

In contrast, the liberals are ready to hoist their flag over the recycling regulations governing old automobiles, electronics scrap, and batteries set forth in the coalition agreement—due to their preference of company responsibility in industry.

The situation in the auto industry is typical. A dispute is currently raging between producers and dealers on one side and scrapyard owners on the other, over the lucrative disposal business. No easy task for the FDP: If they support the idea of company responsibility that is being pushed for by industry and automobile companies, they will put off the scrapyard owners, who fear they will lose their markets if disposal is managed privately by the larger concerns. On the other hand, FDP Minister Rexrodt recently made a stand for "free-market company responsibility."

A true dilemma for the liberals, who would prefer in their time of need to present themselves to all sides as allies.

[Box, p 14]

#### Eco-Taxes

##### Pro

- Cause and Effect Principle ("He who damages the environment pays")
- Consideration of environmental costs in firms' cost accounting
- Choice between payment and avoidance
- Tax break for work and capital
- New jobs in the environmental protection industry

##### Con

- Depreciation of capital funds in environment-intensive branches of industry
- Cost disadvantages in international competition
- Ignorance of true environmental costs
- Additional source of finances for freely spending politicians
- Loss of jobs in traditional branches of industry

#### Government Urged To 'Pioneer' Climate Protection Measures

AU1912165394 Dusseldorf *HANDELSBLATT*  
in German 19 Dec 94 p 6

["er/mbe"-signed report: "Bonn Should Be a Pioneer in Climate Protection"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brussels, Dusseldorf—Shocked by the insufficient results of the EU environment ministers' meeting, a "climate protection alliance" over the weekend urged the Federal Government to pioneer the worldwide reduction of gases producing a greenhouse effect.

The alliance, consisting of environment and consumer associations, development organizations, and churches reminded the government of the follow-up conference to the Rio summit, which is taking place in Berlin at the end of March. A course must be embarked upon there to avert "very serious changes" in the world's climate. To prevent drastic climate changes, greenhouse gases must be reduced by 80 percent by the year 2005, the "climate alliance" says.

The alliance has made 10 specific demands: The foremost aim must be to change the stabilization guidelines for carbon dioxide into the specific aim to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. The industrial states must agree on an energy policy "that is easy on resources and environment-friendly." This should include the introduction of energy taxes and "withdrawing from the uncontrollable nuclear energy." Furthermore, politics should primarily aim at avoiding traffic.

In their final statement following a controversial discussion, the environment ministers pointed out that they consider "the introduction of taxes necessary for stepping up climate protection measures." They urged the finance ministers, who had failed to agree on a combined carbon dioxide/energy tax, to make use of the European Union's excise duty structures, "including energy sources that have not been taxed up to now."

At its last meeting this year, on 21 December, the European Commission will discuss the outcome of the latest EU summit in Essen and the negotiations of the environment ministers. It is "not illogical" that the authority could decide to withdraw its 1992 decision to establish an EU-wide climate tax, a spokesman said.

The Commission's spokesman referred to figures that indicate that the Union will by no means reach its aim of stabilizing its carbon dioxide emissions at the 1990 levels in the year 2000. Estimates say that by the turn of the millennium, emissions might increase by as much as 15 percent.

While Federal Environment Minister Angela Merkel concluded after her first meeting in Brussels that the EU environment ministers' latest resolutions will help reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, her British counterpart John Gummer clearly pointed out the new course on climate protection measures for which his government has finally paved the way: It has now become clear within the Union that "the focus is on national measures and not on a common tax."

Yet the "package of measures" aimed at reducing greenhouse gases, which the ministers agreed irrespective of the tax problem, was not undisputed either. Greece and Italy opposed their partners' demand to reduce the average gas and diesel consumption in newly registered cars to 5 and 4.5 liters, respectively, per 100 kilometers by the year 2005.

## UNITED KINGDOM

#### Thorp Nuclear Reprocessing Performance 'Embarrassing'

MS1812125594 London *INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY*  
in English 18 Dec 94 p 7

[Report by Geoffrey Lean: "Thorp 'At Risk' After Start-up Fiasco"]

[[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sellafield's Thorp reprocessing plant is still not working—a year after ministers gave it permission to start up.

Not a single ounce of spent nuclear fuel has been reprocessed, although British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL), which runs the plant, originally estimated that 180 tons would be dealt with in the first 14 months.

Ministers last week refused to answer a parliamentary question on the performance of the plant. They are

deeply embarrassed by the failure, caused by unexpected technical problems, not least because they were specifically warned by their officials that this might happen. Top civil servants now say that the fiasco puts the plant's future at risk.

Last year BNFL announced that any delay in putting the plant into active operation would cost it 2m pounds a week and damage its commercial reputation.

John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment and the then agriculture minister, Gillian Shephard, gave the go-ahead to the 2.8bn pound plant a year ago last week, after holding up approval for a year while they decided whether to subject it to a public inquiry. Environmentalists said it would increase radioactive pollution and fail to make money, claims vigorously denied by BNFL.

In March—after a last-minute bid in the High Court by Greenpeace and Lancashire County Council to stop the start-up—the firm fed the first 28 tons of spent fuel into the plant to be separated into plutonium, uranium and nuclear waste.

BNFL had previously told the High Court that this process would only take a month. But nine months later the fuel is still only about halfway through the process. This has made a mockery of estimates given by the firm to HM inspectorate of Pollution [HMIP].

Mr John Large, an independent nuclear expert, says that the firm has hit serious technical difficulties in the area where the spent fuel is dissolved before being split into its component parts. BNFL will only admit to "one or two problems".

Environmentalists are quick to point out the irony of the situation. For BNFL argued against holding a public

inquiry on the grounds that any delay would cause "serious financial consequences in both the long and the short term".

Mr Alvin Shuttleworth, the company secretary, told the High Court: "For every week that active operations are delayed... I am informed that BNFL will incur additional costs of 2m pounds."

He also said that "any delay of prolonged duration to Thorp could have potentially damaging consequences on overseas' investors confidence", particularly the Japanese utilities on which the plant depends for its profitability. The firm attacked both environmentalists and HMIP on these grounds for delaying ministerial approval.

A senior government official said last week: "It is quite extraordinary that BNFL have not yet managed to make the place work after all that fuss. The longer it takes to get it going, the more likely it is that overseas customers will flake off and make Thorp unprofitable."

Trade and Industry ministers refused to answer a parliamentary question from Labour MP Llew Smith, asking how much fuel had been reprocessed.

The DoE [Department of the Environment] claimed that it "had no way of knowing" whether any fuel had been fully treated, even though it owns all but one of the shares in BNFL.

The company admitted that no reprocessing had yet been completed, but said: "This plant is not experiencing any production problems of any significance. It has always been the intention to commence active commissioning in a slow and measured way."

But Bridget Woodman, Greenpeace's anti-nuclear campaigner, said: "Either there has been a huge technical cock-up or BNFL lied to the High Court and to ministers."

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